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Stiff Defense Slows 5th's Drive To Po

Substantial Advances Made In Adriatic Area By 8th

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(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

WITH THE 15TH ARMY GROUP, April 17—Significant gains were reported from the Adriatic sector of the Italian Front today but the Allied spring offensive was running into fanatical German opposition south of Bologna where 5th Army troops sought to punch their way to the Po Plains.

Castel San Pietro and Medicina fell to advancing units of the 8th Army in the broad plains north of Highway 9, forcing the Nazis south-east of Bologna to fall back in the general direction of their logical line of defense on the Indice River.

British forces locked in the battle for Argenta Gap bypassed Argenta and established a bridgehead across the Marina Canal. They took many prisoners from the 29th Panzer Grenadier Division committed from reserve in a desperate attempt to plug the gap leading to dry flat country.

On the 5th Army front the rugged terrain and a rugged German defense were giving way grudgingly to combat veterans of and troops of the IV Corps under the command of Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittender.

The Germans are making full use of the mountain terrain, small arms fire and mortars. The fighting in this new spring drive appears to be typical of the cold fury of the Italian campaign since its beginning at Salerno and the later days at Volturno, Cassino and the Garigliano.

On the right flank limited gains were scored as units of the 5th occupied the towns of Torre, Discotta, Disopra and Purcoli. In the central sector, 1st Armored elements overcame stubborn resistance to capture.

(Continued on Page 8)

15th Again Strikes South Of Bologna

MAAF HQ, April 17 — Continuing sustained heavy bomber operations in close cooperation with the ground forces in the Mediterranean theater, 15th AAF Liberators and Flying Fortresses in very great strength today bombed enemy positions along Highways 64 and 65 south of Bologna.

Confirmed by bomb-strike photos, results of today's raid ranged from good to excellent.

The last bombing comparable to the past three days of support by the 15th was in February, 1944, when German counterattacks threatened the Allied hold on the Anzio beachhead. The total number of bomber sorties flown during the Anzio operation, however, was less than the number flown in last Sunday's great effort when 1,233 heavies were airborne.

MATAF aircraft attacked communications targets on the Austrian side of the Brenner line and in the Bologna area today.

Fall Of Nuremberg Near



Yanks Fight In City's Streets

SHAEF, April 17—Nuremberg, where Adolf Hitler once told the Nazi party that Germany would never be conquered, was expected to fall almost any hour tonight to U. S. 7th Army troops fighting through its streets.

The city—political center of the Nazi party and biggest rail junction in the northern part of south Germany—was entered yesterday, while to the east U. S. 3rd Army columns were reported to have reached the Czechoslovakian border virtually severing the Reich in two parts. The city of Plauen, near the border, was captured today.

Nuremberg was entered by the 7th Army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, after an armored arc had formed about the city. Reports indicated satisfactory progress was being made.

Elsewhere in west and central Germany, Allied armies reported only limited advances, the day's activity consisting largely of cleaning up bypassed pockets and towns and fighting off local German counterattacks.

Correspondents said the slowup was only natural since Allied armies have swept nearly 300 miles into Germany since the Rhine crossing less than three weeks ago. One radio report said the western Allies and Russia now occupy about half of Hitler's greater Germany of 1939.

On the Elbe, the U. S. 9th Army continued to build up its bridgeheads against heavy German counterattacks. The bridgehead at Barby was reported now five miles deep, while the bridgeheads north of Magdeburg were expanded as more tanks and infantry crossed the last big river before Berlin.

The U. S. 3rd Army, which advanced beyond Hof to touch the Czech border, and the U. S. 1st Army cleaned up bypassed towns and reported no important advances. Elements of the 3rd Army was reported two miles west of Chemnitz, and other columns were reported moving almost parallel to the Czech border.

The 1st Army was reported 15 miles east and four miles south of Halle, after it had contacted the 3rd Army southwest of Dessau.

After a report that 3rd Army forces headed by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton had actually touched the Czech border, a radio commentator said the 3rd Army now stands in a position to drive either on Prague,

(Continued on Page 8)

Red Army Only 22 Miles From Berlin, Nazis Report

LONDON, April 17—The Red Army offensive for Berlin is being intensified hourly and has driven to within 22 miles of the German capital, according to reports from Germany. Moscow continued to keep a news blackout on operations in this area.

German sources gave detailed reports of advances of the 1st White Russian Armies, commanded by Marshal Gregory Zhukov, in their all out assault for Berlin. The Russians were 10 miles west of the Oder River on a wide front, according to Berlin.

Due east of the capital, the Russians were fighting around Seelow, 28 miles from Berlin, a German commentator said. Another Soviet column, slamming down from the northeast, reached Wriezen, 22 miles from Berlin, according to Nazi sources.

The Germans said that violent fighting was raging southeast of Berlin. Troops led by Marshal Ivan Koniev were driving for Gorlitz, with the eventual objectives of Dresden and junction with the U. S. 3rd Army, the Germans added.

Official Soviet reports on the East Front fighting told of ad-

vances scored by armies of Marshals Tolbukhin and Malinovsky in Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Tolbukhin's forces spread out west and north of St. Polten and approached closer to Linz. The south wing of this army group seized the town of Furstenfeld, 30 miles east of Graz, second largest city in Austria.

Malinovsky's troops captured many towns and villages north of Vienna in Austria and Moravia. Most important town seized was Breclav in Moravia, with 25 miles of Brno.

In an Order of the Day, Marshal Stalin tonight announced the fall of Zistersdorf, 25 miles northeast

(Continued on Page 8)

Truman's Broadcast After S & S Deadline

WASHINGTON, April 17 (AP)—President Truman will broadcast to the Armed Forces and the public at 2200 hours EWT this evening. Col. Harry Vaughn, the President's military aide, said the speech would be "short and snappy," probably lasting five or six minutes.

(Since the speech will have been made after this issue of The Stars and Stripes has gone to press, a full coverage will be contained in tomorrow's paper.)

Nazi Field Marshal Ends Life, Report

WITH THE U. S. 9TH ARMY ON THE ELBE, April 17 (Reuter's)—Reports from the Ruhr pocket tonight said Field Marshal Walter von Model has committed suicide. A German High Command defensive expert, he was the man the Nazis used to rush from one front to another when defenses cracked.

Buchenwald: New Symbol Of Nazism

SHAEF, April 17 — The measure of Nazi contempt for human life and of Nazi perversion of civilized standards has been taken anew this week in reports by reliable eyewitnesses of the horrors they found at the Buchenwald concentration camp captured last Friday by the Allies.

Even so, the Buchenwald camp was regarded as one of the "better" places to go if one were destined to be interned, starved and tortured. It was not brought into existence as a wartime institution. Buchenwald and similar places have been operating since the Nazis came to power in 1933.

Other camps had even grimmer records of brutality, but Buchen-

wald will do as a case history.

At Buchenwald, some 70,000 men, women and children — German citizens quite as well as people of other lands — were systematically and horribly destroyed, sacrifices to the Nazi lust for punishing anyone who opposed Nazi ideas.

A man known in his profession for his reliability, Edward R. Murrow, CBS reporter in Europe, visited Buchenwald, four miles outside Weimar, the day after it was captured.

When he reached the main gate, Murrow said, prisoners crowded behind the wire. On entering, he was engulfed by an evil smell.

Men and boys reached out to touch the American visitor. They

were in rags and remnants of uniform.

"Death had already marked many of them," Murrow said, "but they were smiling with their eyes."

In one building where 80 horses had been stabled in pre-Hitler days, 1,200 men, most of them Czechs, were confined, five to a bunk. Murrow said that the "stink was beyond description."

He found that 242 inmates of that one barrack had died in the last month.

In another part of the camp, Murrow saw the children—hundreds of children, some only six years old. One rolled up his sleeve and showed

(Continued on Page 8)

President Asks 4 Stars For Patton And Hodges

WASHINGTON, April 17 (ANS)—President Truman today nominated George S. Patton, Jr., and Courtney H. Hodges to be full generals.

The President also sent to the Senate the nominations of nine major generals to become lieutenant generals, including Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Keyes, commander of the 5th Army's II Corps.