

Lower Rhine Shrouded In Smoke Screen

Russian Silesian Offensive Gains

LONDON, March 23 (AP)—Marshal Ivan Konev's new Silesian offensive rolled forward along an 80-mile front today toward the inner mountain fortress of Germany where Adolf Hitler's SS men have been reported making preparations for a final stand. With swift tank-led rushes, Konev's First Ukrainian army group threatened five large Silesian cities — Frankenstein, Neisse, Ziegenhals, Leobschuetz and Ratibor—in the Moravian mountains and already was reported fighting in one of them and in the suburbs of another. On the Berlin front the German high command announced that Marshal Gregory Zhukov attacked from the flanks of his Oder bridgehead at Kuestrin, 38 miles east of Berlin, with strong tank and infantry forces. The Germans declared that the attack was smothered in a storm of German fire and 55 Soviet tanks were destroyed, but Stockholm reports and an American broadcast from Moscow declared a full-scale assault on Hitler's capital was immediately at hand. Moscow reports suggested that Konev's victory in upper Silesia was paving the way for the Berlin attack. A breakthrough of 25 miles, celebrated in Moscow last night by a victory salute, was hailed by Investia as "most important and in a direction dangerous for Germany."

Quick fall of the five threatened cities, Moscow dispatches said, would be the tip-off that Germany lacked sufficiently heavy forces in the Bohemian passes, and there would be an immediate advance upon Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia. The threatened smash into Prague would penetrate to the heart of the southern fortress area where Hitler has contemplated making his last stand, cut the northern communications of Vienna and outflank that Austrian capital. Frankenstein, at the northwest end of the front, is 105 miles northeast of Prague and 180 miles north of Vienna. Vienna already was threatened from the east by a new offensive between Lake Balaton and the Danube. The German high command today announced a new retreat on that front, where Berlin said the Russian thrust toward Komarom on the Danube, 89 miles east of Vienna. Komarom, on the north side of the Danube and east of the Vag river, is one of the most important strongholds guarding Vienna. The Moscow dispatches said there was reason to be optimistic about the possibility of the Konev smash toward Prague, for the Germans had counted upon their house-to-house resistance in Breslau, at the rear of the Russian front, to delay operations in a westerly direction and had been taken by surprise. Already, Moscow announced, Konev had captured industrial Neustadt in the center of the front, killed or captured 45,000 Germans and reached to within a mile of the Czech border.

Absentee Ownership Cut Out In Romania

Senae Rejects Aubrey Williams

Displeased With Allied Commission . . .

House Criticizes Policy

WASHINGTON, March 23 (AP)—Outspokenly displeased with the allied war crimes commission, some members of the house foreign affairs committee demanded today that congress assume direction of U. S. war guilt policies. The Allied commission "has made a most inept approach to the whole problem of accusing and punishing war criminals," Rep. Flood (D-Pa.) told a reporter after the committee spent two hours questioning Herbert A. Pell, former U. S. representative on the commission. Pell told the committee he didn't know his present status, but the state department later described him as "a private citizen." The department last month had said Pell was dropped from the commission because congress failed to finance further civilian participation. His place was taken by an army officer, Lt. Col. Joseph V. Hodgson. An appropriation now is pending to permit representation on the same basis as before Pell's recall, and Chairman Bloom (D-



AMERICAN SOLDIER IS BURIED IN BELGIUM—Maj. John B. Day (r), an army chaplain from Springfield, Ill., conducts services for an unidentified American soldier in the largest military cemetery on the western front at Henri Chapelle, Belgium. Lowering the body into the grave are (l to r) T-Sgt. A. H. Herberts, Chester, Ill.; S-Sgt. Vito Mastrangelo, Visalia, Calif., and Pfc. Irwin W. Kestner, Oakland, Calif. Crosses in the background mark the graves of several thousand other American dead. Picture made by William C. Allen, Associated Press staff photographer, on assignment with the wartime still picture pool. (AP Wire-photo).

Sixty Thousand Japanese Open New Drive In China

Koiso Promises Reconquest Of Iwo And Saipan

Ruhr Is Bombed For Third Time

German E-Boats Beaten In Try At Allied Convoy

FDR Silent On Food Situation; No News Parley

Washington, March 23 (AP)—Cancellation of President Roosevelt's usual Friday morning news conference today delayed his expected statement on the food situation.

Health Department Has Serum Available

AUSTIN, March 23 (AP)—Available supplies of serum globulin, to be used under a physicians direction in immunizing against measles, are now in stock in the state health laboratory, the state department of health announced today.

Continuous Round-The-Clock Raids Turning Germany Into Devastation

BRITISH MOVE SOUTH

7000 planes over the reich a day

LEAVE BERLIN WRECKED

WOMAN DIES OF BURNS

AID TO ITALIANS

EISENHOWER, PATTON AND DEVERS CONFER

"Monty's" Men Ready To Move

PARIS, March 23 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley declared today that Allied armies massed along the Rhine can cross the river "most anywhere at any time" and a Berlin broadcast said that Field Marshal Montgomery in the north "seems to be ready" to do just that. Forty miles of the lower Rhine were shrouded in a massive smoke screen through which the Germans said Montgomery was heavily shelling their positions on the east bank and maneuvering his three armies—as well as large sections of the American First army. The skies were dotted with Allied planes isolating the imminent battlefield. Far to the south, the cities of Mainz, Pirmasens and Landau toppled and Ludwigshafen was being cleared in closing hours of the great Palatinate-Saarlund victory. More than 100,000 prisoners have been taken there; Bradley said 203,010 had been captured in the Rhineland since Feb. 8. "There is complete calm on the Allied side of the lower Rhine," Ross Munro of the Canadian Press wireless from Montgomery's headquarters, "it is anybody's guess when the zero hour will come."

Patrol Battles Occur In Italy; Few Casualties

ROME, March 23 (AP)—Brisk patrol skirmishes occurred yesterday on both the Fifth and Eighth army fronts, with the enemy reacting to Allied raiding parties with heavy machinegun and small arms fire, Allied headquarters announced today.

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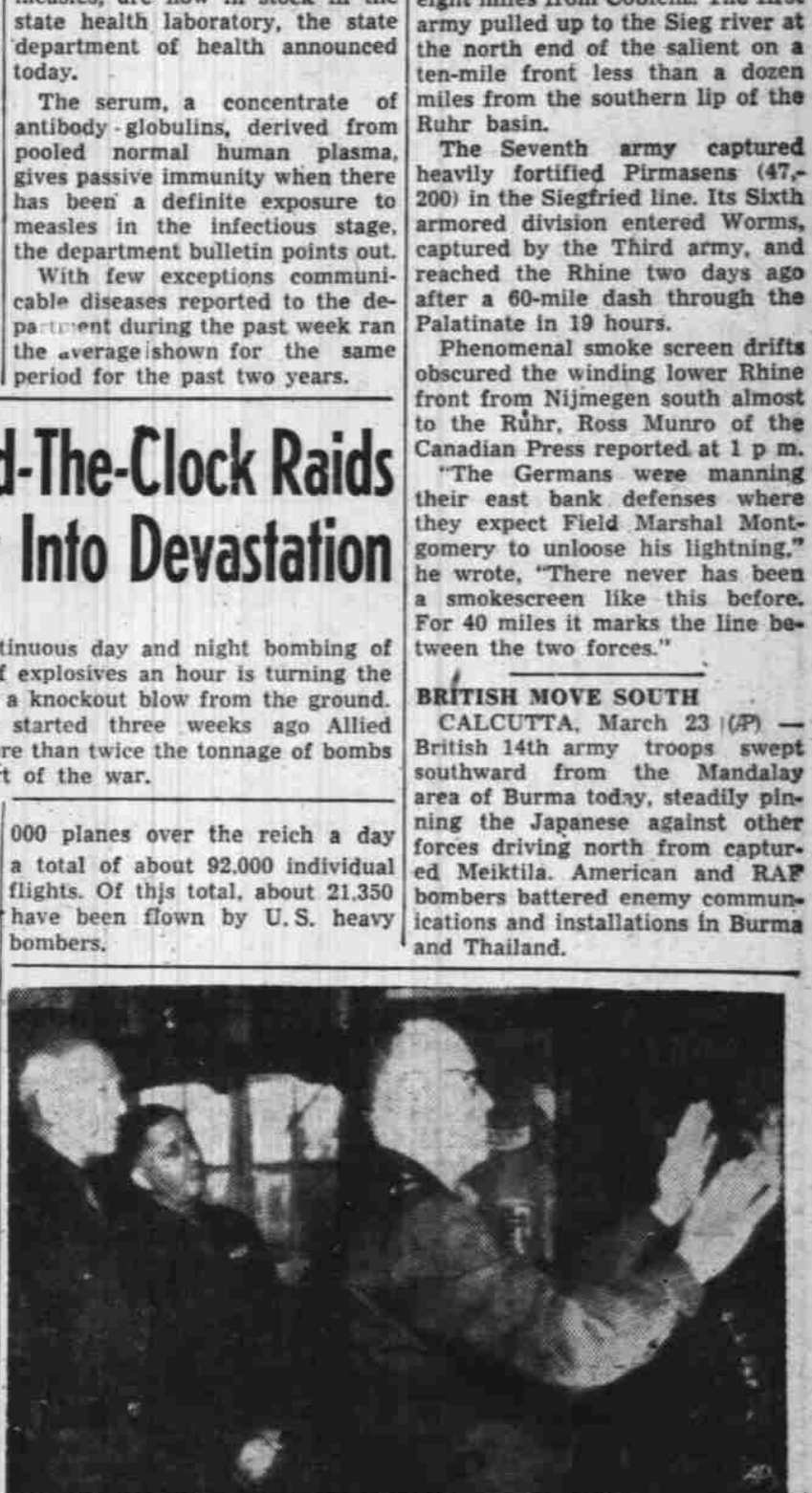
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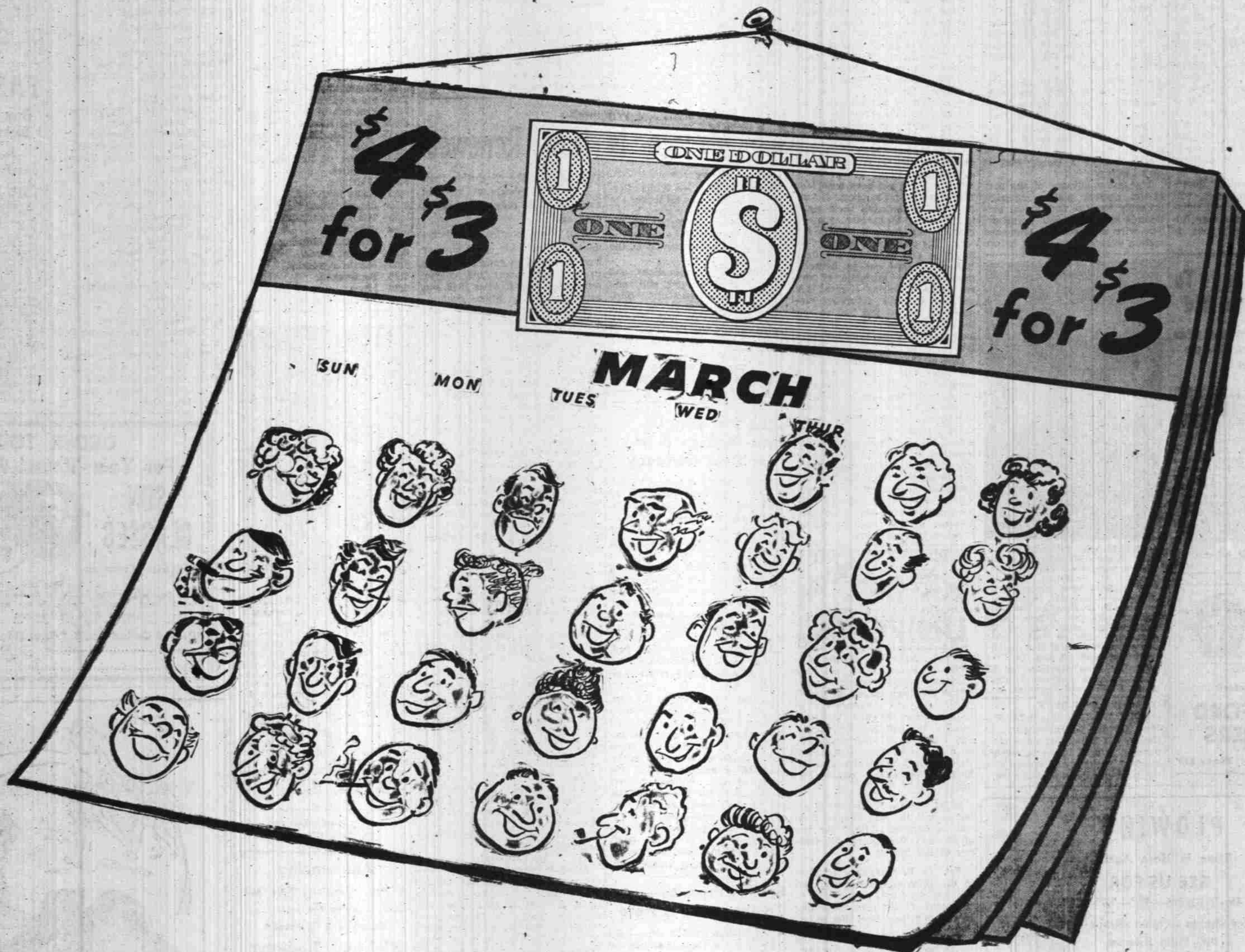
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EISENHOWER, PATTON AND DEVERS CONFER



EISENHOWER, PATTON AND DEVERS CONFER—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (r), supreme Allied commander in the European theater, points out his plan of maneuver to Lt. Gen. George Patton, Jr. and Lt. Gen. Jacob Devers.

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