

Hanover Falls to 9th Doughs

8th Fighters Bag Record 305

Heavies Hit Hard Again At Jet Bases

The battered Luftwaffe reeled from yet another U.S. blow yesterday as more than 850 fighters of the 8th Air Force, which covered some 1,300 heavy bombers in attacks on seven jet fighter bases within an arc stretching 70 miles from Berlin, knocked down 21 planes, 20 of them jets, in air battles, and destroyed 284 more planes on the ground to establish a new record for 8th fighters.

At the same time, the Continent-based 9th Air Force, which flew 1,061 sorties and struck deep at rail targets in Czechoslovakia for the first time, bagged 15 Nazi planes in air combat and shot up 39 on the ground, while the 1st TAF got five in the air and 13 on the ground to set the day's spoil at 377.

The figure late last night still represented a rising toll, for tabulations were still incomplete, and USSTAF declared these compilations may go on for several days. Uncounted claims of bomber gunners may swell the figure even further.

The fighter record eclipsed the mark of 177 blasted in the air and on the ground set Sept. 5 last year. The 339th Mustang Group also produced a new record by destroying 100 on the ground to surpass the 70 demolished by the 56th Thunderbolt Group on last September's record day.

Strong groups of jets got off the ground to give battle with both bombers and fighters. One bomber group battled 40 to 50 for nearly an hour but most groups were hit only once or twice before fighters and gunners drove them off.

Clear Weather Prevails

The destruction boosted the 8th's 10-day toll of Luftwaffe ships to 329, of which 310 were KO'd on landing strips. Since Saturday, when fighters and bomber gunners shot down 104, the Luftwaffe has lost 437 planes through U.S. action.

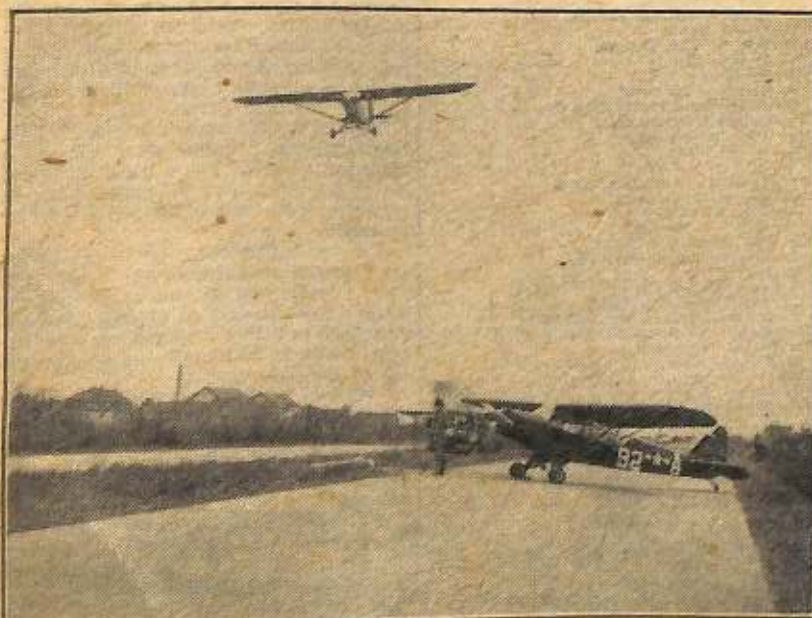
It was the eighth straight day the 8th has been operational and the fourth day running it has dispatched upwards of 1,000 bombers. Clear weather again prevailed over the Continent and bombing was visual over all targets.

The attacks brought to 27 the total number of jet airfields in the Reich hit during the last seven days. The seven strips in the Berlin arc, running from the northernmost point, were at Larz, near Lake Murtitz; Parchin, just west of the lake; Neuruppin, 40 miles northwest of Berlin; Oranienburg, 18 miles north of the capital; Briest, near Brandenburg; west of Berlin; Burg, close to Magdeburg; and Zerbst, southwest of Berlin, adjacent to Dessau.

In addition to the assault on the fields, the bombers and fighters struck at a jet experimental field at Rechlin, also in the Lake Murtitz area and called the "Wright Field" of Germany, and hit an ordnance depot at Oranienburg.

Full reports turned in by 8th Air Force airmen who blistered ten airfields near Munich Monday and destroyed 83 Nazi planes on the ground, indicates that the Luftwaffe has been driven from its fields and now uses auto highways for air strips, dispersing its planes in wooded areas along the roads to escape detection.

Paved With Good Intentions



Germany's super highways, built for conquest, pave her defeat in more ways than one. Now Piper Cubs, spotting for U.S. artillery, convert autobahns into smooth landing strips.

Gold Is Where You Mine It



A 3rd Army officer examines the figurative glitter of stacks of German gold bullion, currency and coins found by U.S. troops when they uncovered a mine at Merkers, 30 miles south of Muhlhausen, Germany.

Okinawa Attacks Repulsed; Japs Report New Landing

While Tokyo yesterday reported another U.S. landing in the Ryukyus—this time on Tsukata island, seven miles off Okinawa's east coast—the heaviest artillery duel of the Pacific war developed out of Japanese counter-attacks on Okinawa.

Supported by naval and artillery guns which poured ten shells into Jap positions for every one received, 10th Army troops on the southern Okinawa line repulsed two enemy counter-attacks while still a third was in progress Monday night, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced.

Front-line correspondents predicted that two to three months might be required for the conquest of Okinawa.

Jap Task Force Should Get Its Wish

NEW YORK, Apr. 10—"Another" special task force, consisting of a battleship, cruisers and destroyers, has gone in search of the U.S. fleet near Okinawa, Tokyo radio said yesterday, adding: "It left determined not to return and dashed into the enemy waters to carry out close-quarter assaults." Last weekend the Japs lost a 45,000-ton battleship and four other craft in an air-sea clash north of Okinawa.

The Tokyo report of a new landing, unconfirmed as yet, said it took place Sunday at Nakagusub Bay on Tsukata, where more than a 100 Allied vessels, including eight battleships, were still operating. The report claimed destruction of a large U.S. destroyer.

Meanwhile, Japan's violently anti-American cabinet under Premier Kantaro Suzuki was formally installed, Tokyo radio announced. It also warned Jap civilians that they faced punishment for listening to American radio broadcasts and failing to turn in leaflets dropped by raiding planes.

PWs May Get Promotions

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10 (ANS)—Special consideration for promotion will be given Army and Navy officers and enlisted men who have been prisoners of war, the War and Navy Departments announced today in a joint statement which said the purpose was to give returned prisoners an opportunity to obtain a rank, grade or rating they probably would have earned in normal service.

With certain exceptions they will be considered for immediate promotion of one rank, grade or rating and further promotion as soon as qualified. Exceptions include officers of the rank of colonel and equivalent or above, commissioned warrant officers, chief warrant officers or enlisted personnel in the top pay grade.

In "appropriate" cases, however, commissioned warrant officers, chief warrant officers and enlisted personnel in the first pay grade will receive prompt consideration for promotion to commissioned officer or warrant officer status, the announcement said.

V-E Day Blueprint War May End As Fronts Join

By Wes Gallagher

Associated Press Correspondent
HAMELIN, Germany, Apr. 10 (AP)—The juncture between the Anglo-American and Soviet forces may well be the time chosen by the U.S., Britain and Russia to declare that all organized warfare with Germany is over.

Such a declaration would give the German soldier one of two choices—to surrender and be treated as a prisoner of war or to continue fighting and be hunted down as a guerrilla. Judging by the morale of German troops captured recently there is little doubt what his choice would be. There are few who are still willing to die for their Fuehrer.

There is no real German front left. Resistance, except in the Ruhr pocket, is disorganized, and represents little more than strong guerrilla opposition. Most military men believe the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington will fix some definite line in Germany to which either the Reds or the Allies will advance and then halt, waiting for the forces opposite to move up and join them.

STOCKHOLM, Apr. 10 (AP)—A Berlin dispatch to the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter said today the Germans believe the Allied-Soviet juncture will occur in the Halle-Leipzig area, northwest of the Czech border. (American troops have been reported within 70 miles of Leipzig from the west, while Red forces moving east in the Dresden area are about 120 miles from Leipzig.)

Cut Brunswick Road 130 Mi. From Berlin; Foe Defends Bremen

Doughboys of the U.S. 9th Army, riding on captured German half-tracks, yesterday seized Hanover, near-pulverized railroad city which had a peacetime population of almost 480,000, while two armored divisions swept past both north and south to within 130 miles of Berlin, one of them severing the Hanover-Brunswick highway.

Both the U.S. 1st and 3rd Armies were again on the go into central Germany, dispatches said. Tank columns of the 1st Army, gaining better than 24 miles to the east and, with air support, breaking down an enemy armored attempt to delay the push in one sector, reached a point about four miles from Nordhausen, 60 miles from the Elbe River, last major water-gap to be crossed before Berlin. The American tanks were reported bypassing the Harz Mountains on their left flank.

Units of the 3rd Army, advancing into Germany's central Thuringia province, scored 15-mile gains at points along a 56-mile front and were within three miles of Erfurt, east of Gotha, and the same distance from Coburg, well to the south. Five columns were reported throwing a loop around Erfurt.

Front dispatches did not identify the units capturing Hanover, but earlier reports had told of infantrymen of the 84th Division entering the city, where, in contrast to other German cities seized, not a single white flag was displayed, although thousands of civilians lined the streets to watch the American entry.

Along the northwestern sectors of the Western Front, where British and Canadian forces were seeking to carve up an estimated quarter-million enemy troops hemmed in but not yet trapped on a wide strip along the North Sea from the Bremen area westward to the zone around Rotterdam, there were signs of stiffening German resistance at some points.

While the battle for Bremen, second largest Reich port, was in its initial stage, advance British tank units having entered villages on its western edge, farther southwest enemy paratroopers were holding up a British armored thrust near Quakenbruck, between the Ems and Weser rivers. Other British forces, in a move to cut behind the Germans, were advancing from south of Bremen toward Wildeshausen.

Enemy Resistance Hardening

Enemy resistance was reported hardening also against a new British bridgehead over the Weser River near Hoya, 20 miles south of Bremen. To the southeast, 9th Army troops linked up with British units which established a bridgehead over the Leine River about five miles north of Hanover and southeast of Hoya. This latter bridgehead was reported under attack by German tanks and infantry.

British armor crossed the Bremen-Hamburg highway, while on the south infantry moved eastward from Hoya toward the Aller River, 60 miles from Hamburg, chief German port.

In the Holland-Germany border zone, Canadian tanks pushing north along the Ems River east bank were 25 miles from Emden.

Joint 1st and 9th Army pressure on the Ruhr pocket was reported to have cut the perimeter around the industrial valley a third of its original size, 25,000 Germans being captured in the process. Dispatches said there had been German attempts to fly some of the trapped troops out.

At the southern end of the front hard fighting was in progress on two sectors—in Heilbronn, on the Neckar River southeast of Mannheim, where the 100th Division was battling, and along the corridor held by the 10th Armored Division toward Craisheim, between Stuttgart and Nuremberg. Ammo and rations were being flown in to the 10th, dispatches said.

Following an air and artillery bombardment of Schweinfurt, the Americans fired leaflets into the city demanding its surrender.

Reds Mop Up Last Germans Inside Vienna

Bitter fighting raged in the center of Vienna last night as both Soviet and German reports indicated that Marshal Tolbukhin's troops had launched a large-scale attack to wipe out all enemy resistance in the city.

Marshal Stalin in the daily Soviet communique last night announced that the Germans had been cleared from all the city west of the Danube Canal. This meant that only a quarter of the capital remained in Nazi hands.

During the day, Stalin stated, over 2,000 prisoners were taken in Vienna.

A Reuter correspondent cabled from Moscow that the issue in Vienna was practically decided and that the forces under Tolbukhin and Marshal Malinovsky were massing for a new drive to the west.

Fighting Delaying Action

The Germans, according to reports, had been pushed into the eastern and northern sectors of the capital where they were resisting strongly. These Nazi forces, however, were believed fighting a delaying action to allow other troops to escape through the narrow gap still open to the north.

Elements of Tolbukhin's army were reported to have driven through Vienna from the south and to be near a link-up with Malinovsky's men advancing westward along the northern bank of the Danube. Malinovsky's troops, a United Press dispatch said, were only six miles from Vienna.

Tolbukhin's troops also were reported moving south of the capital and a Moscow Radio broadcast last night said they had captured Feldbach, 22 miles southeast of Graz, second industrial city of Austria, 17 miles from their last named position.

Flanks are Cleared Up

The imminent fall of Vienna, plus the collapse of Konigsberg at the northern end of the front, meant that the flanks of the Red Army were cleared for a direct assault on Berlin. Large forces were reported moving west from East Prussia last night to merge with the armies of Marshals Zhukov and Koniev massed along the Oder and Neisse Rivers east and southeast of the German capital.

Stalin's communique announced that in the last four days of the battle for Konigsberg the Russians took more than 92,000 German prisoners. During the same period, he said, 42,000 Nazis were killed.

This total suggested that Marshal Vassilevsky had liquidated the greater portion of the 18 German divisions believed trapped in East Prussia.

