

# Hard Fighting Reported Along Red Battle Line

Red Armies West of Vienna Reported Only 145 Miles From Palace of Nazi Ruler

By ROBERT MUSEL  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
LONDON, April 12, (U.P.)—Moscow reported today that violent fighting had blazed up in the red army's Oder river bridgehead on the approaches to Berlin as American mobile forces raced toward the Nazi capital from the west.

"Soviet troops are waging fierce battles beyond the Oder on the approaches to Berlin," a Moscow broadcast said.

The report indicated that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov had lighted the fuse of his long-brewing it with U. S. 9th army drives to squeeze the heart of nazidom in a nutcracker. Zhukov reported slaughtering the German defenses in the Oder valley about 30 miles due east of Berlin. There he had massed in his bridgehead across the Oder a great array of soviet troops and arms. Only yesterday formidable forces of Cossack cavalry were reported on the move, evidently into positions to spearhead a lightning sweep westward.

The soviet high command never officially reported their Oder crossing in front of Berlin. But Berlin and Moscow reports have made it evident that Zhukov has won a springboard beyond the river for the climactic assault now apparently beginning.

The Germans reported last night that the army had lost Klessin, on the Berlin side of the Oder, 33 miles east of the capital. In the Danube valley west of Vienna, another red army push was aimed at Berchtesgaden and the Bavarian Alps, touted as a sanctuary for the Nazi hierarchy.

Soviet armor was reported far up the Danube from Vienna and a Nazi commentator bluntly admitted that the Germans were retreating in Austria. Two Russian armies were clearing in on the last two districts of burning Vienna still in German hands. The Leopoldstadt commercial district, including the 2,000-acre Prater Amusement Park, was cleared yesterday by troops who forced the Danube river canal.

Ernst von Hammer, German DNB military commentator, reported the new Russian offensive west of Vienna. He conceded that Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army had driven 20 miles beyond the Austrian capital along the Danube valley toward Hitler's Alpine redoubt around Berchtesgaden.

The soviet thrust was halted temporarily, Hammer said, south of the Danube river at a point 10 miles east of the junction of St. Poelten, 75 miles from Linz and 145 miles northeast of Berchtesgaden.

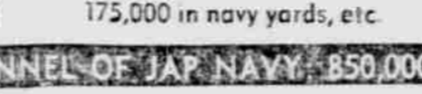
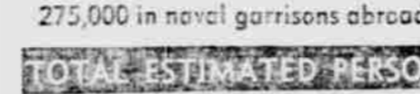
Tolbukhin's offensive appeared designed to cut the German route of retreat to the redoubt from Berlin. Some 30 German divisions possibly the last organized force still available in Germany, was tied down on the Berlin front west of the Oder awaiting the soviet attack.

Other Third army troops crossed the Danube river canal in northeast Vienna and captured Leopoldstadt with its power plant, warehouses and factories. The soviets reached the Ostbahn bridge across the Danube itself, but there was no indication whether they had captured it.

Of Vienna's 21 districts, still in German hands were Brittenau, also between the Danube canal and river, and Floridsdorf, an oil refining center on the east bank of the Danube.

The Germans counter-attacked repeatedly in an attempt to stem the soviet drive, but the Russians killed 4,000 of the enemy in street battles and pressed on relentlessly.

German broadcasts said Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Sec-



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TOTAL ESTIMATED PERSONNEL OF JAP. NAVY: 850,000

occupied Bruggiana, 2 1/2 miles north of Massa, while a contingent of Nisei troops reached the tiny hamlet of Codena, less than a mile east of Carrara.

One Army general hospital in the Mediterranean Theater, which has handled more than 26,000 patients, reduced hospitalization time 30 per cent, by improving physiotherapy apparatus for arm and leg exercise.

Thomas Licavoli, Ohio prison inmate, who has written 45 songs in the last four years and sold many of them—including three new ones—doesn't know one note from another. He hums the tune and a Negro lifer sets them down in note. His latest: "It Was Nice."

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## Americans Press Successes Along Italian Coast

Storm into Carrara One of the Last Obstacles Before the La Spezia Naval Base

ROME, April 12, (U.P.)—American troops of the 5th army today stormed into Carrara, one of the last obstacles before the La Spezia naval base on Italy's western coast.

The American drive up the Ligurian coast came almost simultaneously with a forcing of the Santeramo river by the 8th army on the eastern side of Italy.

Italian partisans joined the U. S. troops in pushing into Carrara, only 12 miles west of La Spezia already under steady attacks from

Mediterranean air force bombers. Other 5th army forces also were steadily moving up the Ligurian coast southeast and east of Carrara. One American column

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