

Stalin, in an order of the day, said the armies of Marshal Gregory T. Zhukov and Marshal Ivan S. Konev had forged a link Northeast of Potsdam, thus closing the gap between the giant pincers around the Nazi capital. Stalin said the juncture cut all roads leading out of the capital and totally enclosed it. Zhukov's troops captured Rohritzeck, 15 miles West of Berlin, and Marquardt, 18 miles Southwest of the Capital, while Konev's troops driving Northwest took Ketzin, 24 miles West of Berlin, and ten miles Northwest of Potsdam. Moscow dispatches said chaos and panic were rampant in the German capital, as half of Berlin was over run by two Russian armies now joined in the city for the final onslaught. The Soviet newspaper, Izvestia, said Russian headquarters were established in Berlin suburban summer houses, but were preparing to move shortly "to a more central address". Eyewitness accounts sent by Russian correspondents from Germany's capital said a fantastic battle surged through subways beneath Berlin's debris littered streets, as Red army forces fought to crush Nazi troops who were using the tube network to stage surprise raids on Soviet communications. Far behind the Berlin front, Red Army troops in East Prussia have captured the port of Pillau, last Nazi stronghold on Samland Peninsula. The Moscow radio meanwhile announced that nearly two million Germans have been killed or captured on the Eastern front since January 1st, raising to 11 million the toll of German casualties exacted by the Red army since the start of the war.

WASHINGTON:

The House Foreign Affairs committee called upon the government Tuesday to use arms and ignore treaties, if necessary, to pursue any Nazi war criminals who seek safety in neutral countries. The committee adopted a resolution expressing the sentiment of Congress that no perpetrator of atrocities be permitted to find sanctuary behind neutral borders as the Kaiser did after the last war. The resolution must be approved by both branches of Congress. It does not have the force of law, but it is strongly worded advice to the executive branch of the government.

PITTSBURGH:

Asserting a black market in meat is raging across the nation in what seems to be a complete breakdown of law and enforcement, senator Wheeler declared Tuesday the ring leaders should be jailed with good stiff sentences. The chairman of a Senate Food Investigation committee said OPA officials are not doing their duty after Ray Spigle, reporter for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette testified at a subcommittee hearing here that an estimated 80 percent of the Pittsburgh district meat, or about 3,000 cattle a week, comes from black market sources.

WASHINGTON:

April 15th marked the end of the most disastrous 6 months period in the history of the Japanese Naval and Air Forces, according to a compilation of Navy figures on enemy air and sea losses. Since October 15th, 1944, Navy airmen alone have destroyed over 6,500 Japanese aircraft. That figure exceeds the Navy total bag of enemy planes destroyed in the entire 3 years and 10 months from Pearl Harbor to October 15th 1944. The closest estimate based on Navy figures to date, shows Navy airmen, including Marine airmen, since the start of the war have destroyed at least 15,000 Japanese planes.

WASHINGTON: A resolution urgently requesting president Truman to put a single agency in charge of food controls to end a deplorable situation was adopted Tuesday by House Republicans. Food production also would be classified as an essential war industry under the resolution approved at a caucus.

26 April 1945.

THE ABBOT DABBLER

THE LEAVE I DIDN'T GET

by A. Reader

I would like to tell a story
And it's true as the day is long.
It's best told over a cold beer
To the strains of a sad old song.

When I came aboard this vessel
At least a good nine months past,
We are due to go to the states they said
And brother we are going there fast.

I naturally felt quite happy
To have such good fortune that day
But now I do not feel so plucky
For the states are still far away.

We have sailed up and down the Pacific
With Carriers and Cruisers and such
And as for the food situation
There were times we didn't have much.

How often I have heard repeated
Just one more operation and then,
We are off for the city of Frisco
To prove to our women we are men.

We have fired guns of every caliber
But there is still a big load in the breach
Of the gun that seems most important
To all of us; one and each.

The gigi stick, brother we've had it
And their aim has been good and true
They stuch it in and then twisted
And broke it off in me and you.

LOS ANGELES - 25 Apr. - Eugene WEDELHARDT, Filipino friend of the late Ernie PYLE, quit his job as a shipyard welder today to join the Merchant Marine so he could get "into the fight against the Japs". Wedelhart, who is forty five, was notified yesterday that Ernie Pyle had willed him \$2,500. He said, "I would gladly give up every penny of the money to have my friend back". Wedhart was given a medical discharge in 1943 after serving in the Army 1 year. Pyle and Wedelhart have been friends since 1922 when Pyle, returning from a trip to Japan with the Indiana University Baseball Team, helped Wedelhart enter the United States from Manila.
