

aan Sealed

Artillery Hammering German Siegfried Line

Assault Under Allied Positions Lengthened

Whiteclad Infantry American First Army across the snowdrifted tier at two new places. Gen. Courtney H. llerly started pouring the main concrete thinly held Siegfried

35-mile assault front St. Vith to the Roer east of Monschau, the Ard Armies had a full underway with gains ad the First to the the West Wall and the Third Army's foot- Germany to five miles. few hours, it was be- preme Headquarters to show whether even- al cold and delaying ernalms would be able ir fortifications with y left behind in their bolster the swaying t.

head Widened ans said Gen. Eisen- hifting his troops in for an all out offen- l massed 60 divisions of them armored, for They called the Mon- 'Allied preparation to ve bases.") 10 or more identified First and Third Ar- iving into the thinned l Line and they ad- 1 within three miles of ers dams controlling els of the Roer River, her before Cologne.

George S. Patton's widened its bridge- the Our River into RMANY—Page 2

WAVE WILL ANOTHER DAY

Zero Recorded at 1, Minn; Chicago is Minus 4

Associated Press) kept the Midwest today and Chicago bureau forecasters said was fair and con- for at least another 24 ary dropped as low as o at St. Cloud, Minn.

STETTINIUS AND HOPKINS MEET

High U. S. Officials Leave Rome; May Be Headed For Big 3 Parley

CHURCHILL, EDEN AWAY

BY NOLAND NORGAARD

Rome —(AP)— Secretary of State Stettinius and Harry Hopkins, who next to President Roosevelt, may have most to do with shaping the United States' international policy, conferred at Allied headquarters in Italy yesterday and today with two American military leaders and then departed for undisclosed destinations.

Their flying visits were said by Hopkins to be part of the preliminaries leading up to the Roosevelt-Stalin-Churchill meeting. An official announcement of the conferences was issued after Stettinius and Hopkins, who is the President's personal representative, boarded planes and left this war theater.

The German radio declared that "certain well-known signs in the last 24 hours make it fairly obvious that a meeting of the Big Three is imminent."

Churchill Absent "Last night Mrs. Roosevelt spoke for her husband at his birthday; yesterday Clement R. Attlee, deputy Prime Minister, answered questions in Parliament in place of Churchill; today Richard Law, British Minister of State, answered foreign affairs questions in Parliament in place of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and Hopkins, who recently visited London and Paris, now has gone from Rome to an "unknown destination."

"All this adds up to one thing," the Nazi broadcast continued. "The big conference. The only question now is where will they meet?"

Hopkins went to Allied headquarters yesterday from conferences in Rome in which he saw Italian Foreign Minister De Gasperi, had an audience with Pope Pius, and conferred with Alexander Kirk, U. S. Ambassador to Italy. By his own statement he looked closely into records relating to Allied political affairs in Italy.

Attend Banquet



Pfc. Floyd B. Smith

FLOYD SMITH KILLED JAN. 3

Marshfield Soldier, 23, Is Reported Killed in Action in France

Pfc. Floyd Burt Smith, 23, who left for overseas duty early in December, was killed in action in France on Jan. 3, according to a War Department telegram received yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Smith, 109 N. Central avenue.

Pvt. Smith, serving with an infantry unit, entered service in June, 1940, and received his training at Fort McClellan, Ala.; Camp Claiborne, La.; Camp Tyson, Tenn.; San Diego, Calif.; and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., from which camp he was sent overseas.

The last letter received here by Mr. and Mrs. Smith from their son was written in France on Dec. 18, 1944.

Pvt. Smith was born in Minneapolis on March 31, 1921, and shortly afterward his parents moved to Owatonna, Minn., where they lived until they came to Marshfield in 1932.

Pvt. Smith attended grade school and the Willard D. Purdy Junior High School here, including the 10th grade. He entered the Army when he was 18 years old.

He is survived by a brother, Charles Smith, Bm. 2/c, stationed at Key West, Fla.; a sister, Mrs. Zigmund Lugoski, Marshfield; and a maternal grandmother, Mrs. Alfaretta Rolfe, Owatonna, Minn., as well as by his parents.

Memorial service arrangements were not completed today but announcement of the service will be made later.

NAZIS ADMIT SOME READY TO GIVE UP

NAZIS PREPARE ALL OUT STAND

Fierce Battles Raging at Bend of Warthe and Oder Rivers

STETTIN PRIMARY GOAL

BULLETIN

London—(AP)—The Red Army today captured Friedland and Hellsberg south of Königsberg in East Prussia, Marshal Stahlf announced in a second order of the day.

BULLETIN

London—(AP)—Marshal Gregory Zhukov's troops today captured Landsberg 68 miles east of Berlin, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

BY JAMES F. KING

London—(AP)—Russian troops plunged to Zielentz, only 55 miles due east of greater Berlin, the German radio said today, and indications mounted that the Germans were preparing to fight street by street for their queen city.

Zielentz, only 20 miles short of the Oder, is 62 miles from Berlin's city limits.

A German broadcast at noon said, infantrymen of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's racing First White Russian Army were keeping up with armored spearheads driving toward Berlin on a wide front.

The closest that Moscow has put Zhukov from Berlin is 73 miles at captured Stolzenberg, 25 miles northeast of Zielentz and on the opposite side of the Warthe River.

Battles Raging

Fierce battles are raging in the bend formed by the Oder and Warthe Rivers, which merge at Kustrin, 22 miles northwest of Zielentz, said Berlin. Zielentz is 25 miles northeast of the Oder River, fortress city of Frankfurt. Huge Soviet flank drives increased the peril to Berlin.

A German broadcast said Zhukov's northern wing had reached to Soldin, only 36 miles from Stettin on the Baltic. A push to Stettin would cut off all northeastern Germany, and put Zhukov in position for a drive on Berlin from the north. Moscow said another Soviet column was 60 miles from the Baltic port of Koslin, about midway between Stettin and Danzig.

Zhukov also was striking south-westward, and reached the Oder at a point about 38 miles south-east of Zielentz. Here his troops were close to a linkup with the First Ukrainian Army of Marshal Ivan Konev, which has stormed over the Oder at points on a long front in German Silesia.

Today's German communiques said Russian attacks from their bridgeheads across the Oder in upper Silesia were stopped, and

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