

Rhine Key Defense Ring

Montgomery's Forces Headed for North Reich Plains

AMERICAN ARMADA IN ASSAULT

Joining Air Fleet
Planes Sun as It
Crosses Channel

TROOPS DROPPED

FRY B. JAMESON
—(AP)—More than 3,500
planes, the greatest ar-
my to cross the English
at one time, swarmed
west Germany today in
the Allied storming of
possibly 1,500 trans-
ports and gliders showered
east of the river.
One of the war's most
aggressive aerial operations,
evastating scourge ever
on a single area was
in the Ruhr Valley in
hours before day-
break. 1,900 American
glider fighters hammered
fields and carried out
missions across the battle-
front.

After noon the German
army of another bomber
force leading from Italy to
east of Germany, pos-
sibly U. S. 15th Air Force's
on Berlin.

First Air Operation
The parachute troop
gliders—the number
from 20,000 to 30,000—
the greatest number ever
in an airborne operation
from Britain and
across the strait of
Dover had the para-
chute troops landed than other
in the job of supply-
ing additional ammu-
nition. —Page 2

**LOSS TOTAL
EXCEEDS \$15,000**

Factory Employees
to \$293 to War
and Today

Break-through Would Open
Way to Three Great
Northern Ports

BY WES GALLAGHER

On the Rhine With U. S. Ninth
Army—(AP)—Field Marshal Mont-
gomery's forces have crossed the
Rhine in great strength north of
the Ruhr onto the great flat plain
leading to Berlin where a break-
through would leave Germany at
the mercy of Gen. Eisenhower and
promote a collapse of the eastern
front at the same time.

This probably is the most vital
spot in all Germany. It offers the
greatest possibility for mobile
warfare. The plain opens the
way to Denmark and the northern
ports of Hamburg, Bremen and
Emden as well as Berlin.

The Germans know this well, and
have been making frantic efforts
since the collapse west of the
Rhine to strengthen their north-
ern front. But it is doubtful if
they have had either the time or
the materials to develop sufficient
fortifications.

Eisenhower has put everything
into the assault but horse cavalry
in a bid for a quick ending of the
war.

Powerful Attack
Virtually every weapon of war
was thrown into the attack by this
northern group of Allied Armies—
amphibious troops, elements
of three Armies, long artillery
preparation and days of heavy air
attacks to isolate the battlefield.

When the Ninth Army went ac-
ross at 2 a. m. it was a part of
the greatest amphibious attack
since the Normandy invasion. The
Rhine is the widest inland water
barrier yet faced in the campaign
by any Army.

British Commandos crossed the
river first in the north. They
were followed by other waves of
Allied troops under cover of dark-
ness.

Later in the day thousands of
airborne troops in their brightly
colored chutes and swooping glid-
ers came down a short distance
across the river.

With the first light, engineers
rushed to the river bank under
clouds of smoke put up by Negro
chemical units and started put-
ting a bridge across.

The several days of intense aerial
bombardment had knocked out
German communications leading
to the battle zone.

No strategic surprise was hoped
for. It is a straight power thrust.
The Germans knew Montgom-



Pfc. Clarence Frankwick

LOCAL SOLDIER DIES MARCH 1

Pfc. Clarence Frankwick Is
Killed in Action in
Germany

Pfc. Clarence Frankwick, 26,
was killed in action in Germany
on March 1, according to a tele-
gram received yesterday morning
by his wife, Ruth, 306A N. Cedar
street.

Pvt. Frankwick entered the Ar-
my June 23, 1944, and received
training at Camp Blanding, Fla.
He was transferred to Fort Meade,
Md., and shipped overseas early
in December, landing in France.

Clarence Frankwick, son of Mr.
and Mrs. Steve Frankwick, 412A
S. Cedar street, was born in Strat-
ford June 20, 1918. When he was
five years old he accompanied his
family to Marshfield where he at-
tended and was graduated from
St. John's Parochial School. Be-
fore entering service he was an
employee of the Roddis Lumber
and Veneer Company.

His marriage to the former
Ruth Plier took place six years ago
in Hewitt.

Surviving besides his parents
and wife are two children, Da-
vid, 5, and Joan, 3; three sisters,
Mrs. Leo (Bertha) Chevrier, and
Martha and Marie Frankwick, all
at home; and four brothers, Bert
and Steve Frankwick, both in La
Crosse, Cpl. Oscar Frankwick,
with the Army in the European
theater of operations, and Elroy
Frankwick, electrician's mate,
third class, on active duty in the
Pacific with the Navy.

A memorial Requiem High Mass
will be read Monday morning at
9:30 o'clock at St. John's Catho-
lic Church, the Very Rev. Michael
Kelnhofer officiating.

PLANS FORMED

Airborne Army Land Massive Stroke at

Assault Forces Drive into Wesel Allies Making All Out Drive to Victory This Spring

Paris—(AP)—American and British assault
the lower Rhine on a broad front today and
into the cities of Wesel and Rees while the
borne troops dropped onto the north Ger-
the Ruhr in a bold bid for victory this spring.

The Ruhr was caught in a vise between
Montgomery's 21st Army group and the Ame-
my, swiftly expanding its Remagen bridgehead
dozen miles south of the great industrial basin.
Farther south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton
secured its bridgehead on the upper Rhine and
flat country leading 302 miles to Russian
Oder southeast of Berlin.

Commander Captured
U. S. Ninth and British-Canadian troops enc
Rhine in Navy-manned assault and landing
darkness of pre-dawn, protected by an earth
lery barrage and the bombing and strafing o
planes.

Montgomery announced the German comman-
at the northwest corner of the Ruhr, was
Gen. Deutsch, commanding flank batteries in
killed.

The first identified bridgeheads were at Ree
Xanten. Troops captured Bislich on the east s-
rier river.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 parachute troo-
Lewis H. Brereton's Allied First Airborne Ar-
earth behind German lines on brightly color-
and in gliders.

This was the third and perhaps decisive c-
Rhine. All arms of the Allies participated.

Before this third Rhine crossing was the
plain, as broad as Kansas and as long as Penn-
sylvani- Elements of at least six of Gen. Eisenhower's
fighting east of the Rhine and three other Arm-
ies. Across the river were the American Fifth
Ninth Armies; the Allied First Airborne; the 1
and Canadian First. The American Seventh Ar-
my is up the last of the Palatinate, with its cap-
ital at Speyer.

The French First Army was in the Palatinate
upper Rhine. Whereabouts of the U. S. 15th Ar-
my yet reported.

Below the Ruhr, First and Third Army troops
Omar N. Bradley's group were bulging
bridgeheads which appeared to be a
breakout.

There seemed
to be optimistic
news of the new c-
ross of the Ruhr w-
troops were thru-
ing in the book of
Marshal Albert Ke-
rger Wehrmacht.
British Comm-
and first across the
lower Rhine.

U. S. CARRIER FORCE HITS RYUKYU ISLES

Tokyo Reports Yanks Push-
ing Home Second Day's
Attack on Group

San Francisco — (AP) — Radio
Tokyo reported today that a