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# Yorkshire Post

and Leeds Mercury  
LEEDS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1945

DAILY—ONE PENNY

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## DESPERATE EFFORTS BY GERMANS TO COUNTER-ATTACK Thaw Slows Down the Russians

### RED ARMY THRUST TOWARDS STETTIN

#### Deeper Push into Silesia

The Russian threat to Berlin is growing, in spite of desperate enemy efforts to stage a counter-attack to safeguard the Oder line directly east of the capital. The nearest Russian force of any size is believed to be about 42 miles from Berlin, though parachute troops of the Red Army may have been dropped nearer the capital.

Colonel von Hammer, the German commentator, last night, in an admission which went beyond the official news from Moscow, said that Marshal Zhukov's northern army, in a big north-west sweep round the area of the armoured battles before Frankfurt, had reached a point within 23 miles of Stettin.

Von Olberg, speaking for the German High Command, last night, said that a sudden thaw at key-points on the front had done the aid of the Germans. He added: "It is possible that for the moment the tremendous blow can be halted to a certain degree."

Zhukov's northern wing has reached the Oder at a point north-west of Kustrin, said Max Krull, German News Agency commentator, last night.

### GREAT ODER CROSSINGS MAY BE IMMINENT

From Our Military Correspondent

Russian armies are gradually tightening the ring round the 20 German divisions pressed against the Baltic coast. In East Prussia the Red Army also took Jutlin, one mile west of the outskirts of Königsberg—Berliner.

The German position at Kustrin, which still holds the town, is at grips with the enemy at east quarters, said a Berlin military spokesman yesterday.

The statement, that the Russian still holds the town "implies that Berlin faces a battle of major importance, the threat to this vital fortress."

The spokesman added that the situation in the area of Kustrin and east of Frankfurt the enemy is pushing close to the Oder and a possible breakthrough is being sought.

On the Oder line, taken in its widest sense, the Russians are being forced back.

"Possibly the Russians are going to begin a new offensive on the Oder between Frankfurt and Kustrin," said the spokesman, "and the initial speed of the Soviet offensive."

Sudden Thaw  
"Suddenly thaw at key-points on the front has done the aid of the Germans," said the spokesman, "and the initial speed of the Soviet offensive."

Further Gains in East Prussia  
The communiqué issued from Moscow last night, said: "Today, in East Prussia our troops captured the towns of Bartenstein and Guttstadt and more than 100 other inhabited places. The enemy continued to fight on the destruction of the encircled enemy forces."

Stettin Road Link  
Silesia, 25 miles north-east of Kustrin, is an important road link between Stettin with Kustrin and Landsberg with Königsberg. The capture confirms German reports that Königsberg is being apparently bypassing the Frankfurt-Kustrin battle.

## BATTLE FOR ODER LINE Enemy Hits Back in Vain

From DUNCAN HOOPER,

Reuter Correspondent

MOSCOW, Friday Night

A 300-mile retreat in just under three weeks. Guderian has marshalled his panzers and is hitting back at the Russians as hard as he can. He has hurled his armour into several counter-attacks with a view to holding the Oder line—the intricate system of fortifications along the river passage which guard the heart of the Reich.

Artillery discharges 30 feet wide, big concrete and steel pilings and multiple-trench line interwoven with wire, extending along the river, over high ground, and across fields, marshes and forests.

But Marshal Zhukov is beating down on Frankfurt-odder with terrific weight, and the German reinforcements have so far failed to stem the Russian tide.

Zhukov is pushing with almost equal strength all along the line from the Wartke River down to the Oder. He is apparently aiming at clearing completely the German bridgehead between the two rivers.

Abundant Booty  
More big supplies of German equipment have fallen into Russian hands in the past 24 hours.

The Russian army is pushing with almost equal strength all along the line from the Wartke River down to the Oder. He is apparently aiming at clearing completely the German bridgehead between the two rivers.

Defence of Berlin  
Russian troops and supplies are moving in to surround the city. The German High Command is attempting to hold the city by ordering that every street and building should be held like a fortress.

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Junker Estates for Polish Peasants  
Mr. Edmund Berthold, Minister of Agriculture, said in the Reichstag that the Junker estates in Poland should be divided among the Polish peasants for four years.

German Ships Reported at Copenhagen  
A Danish Press Service report tonight says that 20 German warships have arrived at Copenhagen from various Baltic ports. The Press Service says that a few more vessels and ten motor torpedo boats—

Hundreds Left to Talk  
They have told much already, and they all agree that the death of the Nazis inflicted was a terrible one. The full story of the German army of all will be told in its entirety—British United Press.

8,000 U.S. Troops Absent Without Leave  
ALLIED SUPREMACY H.Q., Friday  
American Army Headquarters in Europe reported today that 8,000 and 10,000 officers are absent without leave.

Map of the southern sector of the Western Front.

## Reinforcements for Luzon



A United States landing ship packed with troops and equipment heading for Luzon Island.

## HORRORS OF A GERMAN MURDER FACTORY Conveyor Belt Killed Victims and Carried Them to Furnaces

MOSCOW, Friday

"THE Oswiecim murder factory puts even Mauthausen in the shade." This comment, from a correspondent who has visited the great concentration camp at Oswiecim, in Silesia, now in Russian hands, covers a tale of horror.

Oswiecim, for example, boasted a conveyor belt for the dead. With unparalleled efficiency this not only electrocuted the Nazis' victims, but also conveyed their bodies straight into furnaces.

"The first shock that Oswiecim gives you is its enormous size," writes Boris Polovny, a well-known Russian journalist, in "The Warsaw Times". "There is a dense square mile surrounded by human blood, and literally blanketed with human skulls."

1,500,000 Victims  
"There was another department for semi-prisoners, who were forced to sort the clothes of those who had already been murdered."

Uproar  
Punditism broke out, and the 300 people in the court screamed for the "murderer" to be hanged.

Cold Courtroom  
Eyes in the courtroom were crooked, as there was no proper heating, and witnesses edged up to the stove which stood in the well of the court with its pipe dangling above its head.

Bulgarian Prince Executed  
Three former Regents of Bulgaria—Prince Kiril (brother of the late King Boris), Professor Iliev and Nikola Mihov—were executed in Sofia on Thursday, according to Ankara radio.

PIERLOT REGIME MAY END  
MOSCOW, Friday  
After clashing precariously for some time on the country over the resignation of the whole Cabinet, the Government has now decided to resign.

Yet Another Cut in Germany  
Germans will be told in their Sunday papers that they will have to make their rations for the next eight weeks last nine weeks, according to an order from Goebbels to editors through the German News Agency.

Effect on Luftwaffe  
The British Air Staff has made severe contributions to our position in the Western Front. It is estimated that almost in halves of the Luftwaffe's strength has been cut, and the German air force has been practically cut off its own way.

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## 1st ARMY FURTHER INTO GERMANY Siegfried Crossroads Reached

WITH U.S. 1st ARMY, Friday Night

ELEMENTS of the U.S. 1st Army opened the attack on the first of the Siegfried Line pillboxes in the early hours of this morning. The 26th and 18th Regiments of the "Fighting First" Division probed through the dragons' teeth east of Malmédy, and plunging forward through deepening slash.

The 2nd Division made the greatest 1st Army advance—to a crossroads 1,000 yards west of the Siegfried Line, halfway between two branches of the district Line.

Opposition Increases  
Relatively light opposition from the Siegfried Line increased later. Troops of the 8th Airborne Division are in the town of Neuf, inside the Siegfried Line, and 9th Airborne Division is in the town of Neuf, inside the Siegfried Line.

FRENCH ARMY IN COLMAR  
FIGHTING IN CENTRE OF CITY  
An official statement issued from Allied Supreme H.Q. last night stated that French and American troops and tanks of the 1st French Army entered the city of Colmar during the morning and had reached the centre of the city, where street fighting is in progress.

3rd Army's Front in Germany  
WITH THE U.S. 3rd ARMY, Friday Night  
Third Army troops are tonight probing a mine-swept front in Germany near the town of Neuf, inside the Siegfried Line, and 9th Airborne Division is in the town of Neuf, inside the Siegfried Line.

Enemy's Weakest Link  
A. What is the weakest link in Germany's economic chain? It is still all out transport, whose importance is reflected in the full attention being given to the bombing of railway lines and marshalling yards.

Strait Barometer Rising  
By official semi-regularly, the Strait of Gibraltar has been closed to all ships, and the Strait of Gibraltar has been closed to all ships, and the Strait of Gibraltar has been closed to all ships.

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