

"HIGHLANDER"

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AT SEA

FRIDAY, April 13 1945.

ONE REMAINING RIVER BARRIER BETWEEN ALLIES AND BERLIN

More than a dozen armoured columns of the American 9th, 1st and 3rd Armies are sweeping to the Elbe, the last river barrier before Berlin.

In one day some of their tanks made a more than 50 mile dash, and infantry are reported to be following closely. Air observers report that the German resistance is in confusion with traffic choking the roads in all directions. In one instance panzers which were urgently needed were stopped on the road through lack of petrol.

The vanguard of the tank thrust has been reported at Madgeburg, an hour-and-a-half's motor run from Berlin. In Brunswick fighting is going on in the centre of the city. 7th Army forces are at Nuremburg, 1st Army forces are in the Black Forest area, and glider landings are reported at Weimar. In the Ruhr pocket 43,000 prisoners have already been taken.

The British 2nd Army has crossed the river barrier before Bremen at several points and the outer defence line has been breached. German reports state that General Dempsey has launched a full-scale assault on the port.

Some observers say the Germans may pull back to a line running from Bremen to Emden

and try to hold it in the hope of preventing a sweep into the North German plain.

8ths rapid progress

The rapidity with which the 8th Army exploited its break-through over the Senio river has taken the Germans by surprise. Two towns on the Bologna side of the river have fallen and our forces also crossed the next river barrier, the Sanderno.

New Zealanders took a leading part in opening the operations. BBC observer, Michael Reynolds, says the Kiwis advanced six miles against formidable opposition.

It is now revealed that special training was undergone by NZ engineers for the crossing of the Senio and other water obstacles. For several weeks, selected sections trained with special modern craft at the mouth of the river Tiber, hundreds of miles from the 8th Army front, and the quick transfer of NZ columns across the Senio was a big factor in cracking the enemy's strong defensive line.

N.Z. NEWS

Miss Shirley Peake, of Stratford, won first prize in the latest National Art Union, in which over a million half-crown tickets were sold.

N.Z. wage rates have been raised 2½d. an hour. Skilled labourers now get 3/0½., semi-skilled 2/8½., and unskilled 2/7½ an hour.

Negotiations are proceeding in London for a N.Z. loan of £24,000,000 at three-and-half per cent.

There has been an eruption in the Tongariro lake, in the centre of which an island has formed. Steam rose to a great height and boulders and debris were tossed thousands of feet into the air.

The farming season has been the best in years, enabling 13,000 extra tons of beef to be shipped to Britain. Crop yields have been 5 bushels better than in previous years.

OBITUARY

Franklin D. Roosevelt
President U.S.A.

Lectures

(AGRICULTURE)

FRIDAY: 2.30 "Grassland in India."—W.O. I. Walford.

SATURDAY: Textiles, Cottons. W.O. II Marlow.