

Nazi SS Plans Guerrilla Fight

BY FRANK CONNIFF
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WITH THE NINTH ARMY'S
30TH DIVISION EAST OF THE
RHINE, March 27. — Nazi plans to fight on indefinitely from their "national redoubt" mountain stronghold—regarded only recently as a fantastic pipedream—today are being studied as an actual possibility in view of the sensational developments of the last few days.

The shift of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring to the western front and supreme command of virtually all the Wehrmacht, along with authenticated stories of feverish defense preparations under way in the Redoubt area have caused observers for the first time to place credence in reports Nazi war criminals plan to escape punishment by retiring to his hill-bound fortress.

The hope of waging guerrilla warfare in this area, bounded by the Bavarian, Austrian, Italian and Swiss Alps, would explain the stubborn defense of the Nazi Army in Italy although those troops are badly needed on other fronts. It also would explain the elevation of Kesselring, linking the destiny of the campaign east of the Rhine with the man responsible for the skillful defense of Italy.

American officers acknowledge that the terrain is almost impenetrable and that an entrenched enemy could wage a formidable fight. However, it also is pointed out that time is growing short for the Nazi leaders. They must flee at the proper moment or be cut off within German proper.

In this connection, it is believed Hitler, Himmler and other high-ranking party members already have transferred their personal possessions to the Redoubt area.

Observers also pointed out that Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's rapid surge across the Rhine and the powerhouse drive of the Russians toward Austria inexorably are forcing the Nazis to a momentous decision.

If they hope to retire behind the Redoubt, they soon must extricate their picked SS divisions from the battleline and move them into the mountains—or face the possibility that Patton and the Soviets will seal off those units within the collapsing German lines.

On the other hand, they face the alternative of withdrawing these elements—and thus removing the only troops which keep Germany fighting today.

Once the key SS personnel are shifted from the frontlines there is little doubt but that the old line Wehrmacht generals would soon surrender.

Established behind their Redoubt, the Nazis undoubtedly would hope to wage the greatest Guerrilla war in history, terrorizing fatherland until they could seize control of the government

again. Munich or some similar city probably would be the focal point for Nazi activity, with Berchtesgaden retaining its traditional role as Hitler's ivory tower, where long-range schemes would be formulated.

OKINAWA BEACH

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broadcasts ranging from an admission that an invasion had occurred to a denial that a "single soldier" had reached shore.

Tokyo also reported that American battleships, cruisers and more than 1000 carrier planes were bombarding the Okinawa group, especially the naval and air base island of Okinawa itself, for the fifth straight day today.

Land-based planes and other Allied warships were reported supporting the purported invasion with attacks along a 1300-mile front stretching all the way from Japan itself to the island of Pratas in the South China Sea.

More than 200 superfortresses sparked the supporting raids with an attack on two airfields and an aircraft plant on Kyushu, southernmost of the Japanese home islands, in daylight today. It was the first Marianas-based B-29 raid on Southern Japan.

The Japanese communique did not identify the islands in the Kerama group on which it said the Americans had landed. However, a propaganda broadcast yesterday said 2000 troops were attempting to land from 100 barges on Tokashika, Zamami and Aka, the three largest islets in the group.

Though of little use in themselves, the Kerama Islands might serve as bases from which to attack Okinawa. The capture of Okinawa would knock out the strongest Japanese base between Formosa and Japan and open a passage to the East China and Yellow Seas.

The Keramas lie directly opposite Naha, on the southwest coast of Okinawa Island. Naha is capital of Okinawa prefecture, which includes all the Ryukyu Islands south to Formosa.

GOP to Draft 1946 Campaign

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The Republican National Executive Committee meets today to plan 1946 election strategy in collaboration with GOP members of Congress.

The United Press was informed that party policy toward next month's United Nations security conference was not listed for discussion. But the Republican delegates named by President Roosevelt to help draft the security pact are expected to participate in today's discussions.

Chairman Herbert Brownell, Jr., meets with the executive committee this morning. He and the execu-

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