

New Gains Place U.S. Armies Within 21 Miles of Cologne

PARIS—(AP)—The American First and Ninth armies have won a 14-mile stretch along the flooded Roer river from Linnich to a point 2,500 yards northwest of besieged Duren, it was announced today at supreme headquarters.

This placed the Americans within 20½ miles of Cologne, their nearest approach, at a point downstream from Duren, through which the river flows north toward the sea.

Twenty miles farther south, other units of the First army moving along both sides of the river near its source over-ran a fourth hamlet, Kesternich, in an advance of a mile or more.

Seek to Envelop Plain.

The First and Ninth between them were swiftly wiping out the last stubborn German remnants west of the river in a campaign seeking to envelop the Cologne plain with its 21 muddy miles to the Rhine.

Kesternich lies east of previously taken Rollesbroich, Bickerath and Simmerath and about 3,000 yards from the Roer.

(The German communique said the First army around Duren and Monschau lost 15 tanks and was "temporary halted by our fire." The enemy broadcast added that "only after a new onslaught did they manage to penetrate into some villages.")

The U. S. 83rd division gained almost two miles and occupied Gurzenich, almost at the edge of Duren. An armored attack was

launched northeastward from Gey, with the Fifth armored division participating.

Ninth army troops 20 miles to the north sprang into action and seized the Inde river town of Vichhofen, two miles south of Julich, in a bulge-straightening action.

Aided by Weather.

For once, the First army had bright sunny weather which promised help from the air in budging the stubborn Germans from their trenches and bunkers.

The First army was on the enemy's side of the Roer headquarters in the area four miles southeast of Monschau, and moving between the Hurtgen and Monschau forests.

Before besieged Duren, Maj. Gen. Robert C. Mason's 83rd division advanced to the western outskirts of Gurzenich, a suburb of the city of 39,000 and only a few hundred yards from the flooded river.

The U. S. Third army battered (Turn to Page 2, Column 1)

'Equalized Pay' Plan For Teachers Widened

A new salary schedule for school teachers which would equalize the pay between elementary and high school teachers and also between women and single men instructors was adopted by the board of education Wednesday night.

The new salary schedule, to become effective Jan. 1, 1945, equalizes pay for elementary and high school teachers, as previously approved by the board, and the full adjustment will be made in 1945. The schedule will adjust the pay between women teachers and single men over a period of four years and will affect only the salaries of the women teachers who have reached their maximum. The schedule retains the \$300 differential between married men

made in 1946, 1947 and 1948 until the full schedule is reached.

Representatives of the Racine Teachers' association met with the board in August and September asking for equal pay for equal training, experience and work, and before the 1945 budget was adopted the board voted to raise the elementary teachers up to the high school salary level. The board refused to increase the women teachers to the same salary as the single men.

The salary schedule in effect for many years paid elementary teachers \$200 less than high school teachers and single men teachers were paid \$200 a year more than women. Married men instructors

1944-12-14 83rd gains two miles and occuppies Gurzenich

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