

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Heavy snow north, freezing rain south tonight. Colder Thursday.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 37; minimum 5.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

Back em Up!
KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

Thirty-First Year—No. 9711.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Wednesday, February 21, 1945.

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U. S. Tanks Drive Through Hole in Main Nazi Front

7th Army Gains To Within Sight of Saarbruecken

BULLETIN
Paris —(P)— Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army advancing three miles at some points on a 55-mile front, captured 16 towns today and entered four more including the important one of Saarburg.

BY JAMES M. LONG
Paris —(P)— Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., hurled an armored division today through a hole gouged in the central German front in the Moselle-Saar triangle and the tanks smashed five and a half miles forward toward Trier through disorganized resistance.

Goch, strongly fortified road center between the Rhine and Meuse (Maas) rivers in the north, finally was captured by Scots of the Canadian First army which gathered momentum in its offensive toward the Ruhr valley, 16 miles away.

South of Patton's Third army, the U. S. Seventh army advanced to within plain sight of Saarbruecken, less than three miles away. Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's shock troops invading the Saar again captured half a dozen border towns and broke into Forbach, large French rail center which is almost a suburb of devastated Saarbruecken. The Americans seized heights overlooking historic Spicheren and the Siegfried line fortification.

Patton, swiftly capitalizing on the breach in German defenses carved laboriously by Maj. Gen. Harry J. Matony's 9th division, sent his tanks clanking to within seven miles of Trier and two of Saarburg, both keystones of the German defense system in the Moselle valley leading to Coblenz and Mainz on the Rhine. Dispirited Germans surrendered by the hundreds.

All along a 55-mile assault front, the Third army was slamming the Germans back on their heels. The onslaught was in the Eifel mountains from the Pruem area to below the Moselle. Vandugars were within a mile of the northern fringe of the rich Saar district coal and steel region.

The attack overran 11 towns overnight and early today and reached to within three and a half miles of the confluence of the Saar and Moselle, just southeast of venerable Trier, oldest city in Germany.

In the north, the last enemy suicide squads were cleared from the ruined road center of Goch, once a town of 13,500 and still the center of eight military highways. The Scots thrust on 600 yards south-westward. Goch is eight miles south. See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

Phillip Davis Listed Missing

S-Sgt. Phillip F. Davis, brother of Mrs. George Felot, Wisconsin Rapids, has been missing in action since February 2 in Germany, according to a war department telegram received by the soldier's sister.

Sergeant Davis was an infantryman with the First army.

He enlisted in the armed forces in September, 1942, and received training at Camp Livingston, La., Camp Pickett, Va., Southwestern college, Memphis, Tenn., Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., San Antonio, Tex., and Fort George Meade, Md., from which station he was sent overseas.

RED CROSS MEETING

There will be a meeting of the south Wood county chapter of the American Red Cross in the Elks club at 8 o'clock this evening. Officers are to be elected.



Hi, Bill—I hear you managed to find a place to live!

Frankfurt Is Cut Off From Berlin

BY RICHARD KASISCHKE
London—(P)— Marshal Gregory Zhukov's troops, fighting to encircle Frankfurt on the Oder 38 miles east of Berlin, have "temporarily" slashed the city's lifelines to the capital, a German military commentator said today.

The fortress town on the west bank of the Oder is under siege and the constant hammering of Russian artillery and bombers, said the report from inside the city by Transocean war reporter Hans Arntz.

His broadcast coincided with a military review in the Moscow newspaper Pravda which said the Red army was 34 miles from Berlin.

This report, the closest the Russian press has yet placed the Russian troops to Berlin, did not give the point of the penetration, but indicated it was Zhukov's sector and possibly west of the Oder.

"The purchasers of stolen property in Frankfurt on the Oder have fled to Berlin and no longer know where to go," said the review.

Arntz made the disclosure that the trunk railroad and autobahn to Berlin had been cut temporarily along with the statement, "all roads leading westward from Frankfurt are now open."

He said the Germans were fighting defensively "between Berlin and the Frankfurt-Kuestrin front" on the Oder.

The assault upon Frankfurt, he added, is being directed from bridgeheads south of the city and the "Russians have repeatedly assailed the town, attempting encirclement."

The bulk of Frankfurt's 76,000 population has fled and the city has been stripped for a deathstand defense as a bastion of Berlin, the German broadcast said.

"Grenades are exploding in its streets and Russian planes are flying over the rooftops rattling their machineguns," he added. "Frankfurt has become a town without air raid sirens as the occupants are constantly on the jump.

Capture Polish Town
"Many streets are lonely and dead. Buildings are deserted and their occupants have fled to the west. Only vital enterprises are still open. The electricity supply has been cut down and street cars have ceased running. Street cars have been converted into anti-tank barricades."

Marshal Konstantine K. Rokossovsky's Second White Russian army has captured the Polish corridor town of Czersk, 17 miles northwest of Chojnice and 45 miles southwest of Danzig, Premier Marshal Stalin announced in an order of the day.

Czersk, on the main Danzig-Stettin railroad, was described as "an important communication center and a powerful German defense stronghold in northwestern Poland."

Russia's First Ukrainian army drove steadily westward toward the Neisse river stronghold of Guben and the southern end of Berlin's eastern defense wall along the Oder.

Advancing as much as 10 miles through a heavily-forested region in the face of persistent German counterattacks, Marshal Ivan S. Konev's troops yesterday captured the hamlet of Schegelin, eight miles east of Guben and 57 southeast of Berlin.

Midnight Curfew Meets Varied Reaction in City

The midnight curfew for entertainment places was received with varied comment in the city of Wisconsin Rapids.

Several tavern proprietors and officials of clubs were interviewed. One owner thinks "it's the swellest thing that ever happened—and 12 o'clock is time for people to go home anyway." Another wanted everyone to know that he didn't like the new restriction and stated that no one he has talked to likes it either.

A few were non-committal but agreed that they would conform with the new closing "request." Still another proprietor appeared to be satisfied to close at 12 "for after that time there are only a few people drifting in and out anyway."

The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that they would abide by the new "request" but aren't getting too excited about it one way or the other.

"Primary responsibility" for administering the national midnight curfew for entertainment places today was formally assigned to the war manpower commission, an Associated Press report stated today.

War Mobilization Director James



FIRST MARINES TO DIE ON IWO JIMA—These two marines, slumped in death, lie where they fell on Iwo Jima, first victims of Japanese gunfire as American conquest of the strategic Nipponese island began. Marine officers report they are engaged in their toughest battle in 166 years. This photo was made by Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer on assignment with the wartime still picture pool.

Thunderbolts Sweep Hitler's Berchtesgaden for First Time

BOMBERS BLAST NUERNBERG AGAIN

Rome—Rocket-firing Thunderbolts of the U. S. 12th air force made the first attack of the war yesterday on Hitler's private city of Berchtesgaden, the mountain hideout high in the snow-capped Bavarian Alps, it was announced today.

The planes, sweeping in from Italian bases, pumped rockets into rail yards at low levels, ripped rail tracks, cars and locomotives and smashed at other targets in and near Berchtesgaden, which may be the most heavily fortified spot in all the reich. They ran into intense flak and small arms fire.

While there was no official comment on the attack, it was speculated that the surprise strike was directed against the movement of top priority personnel, supplies and Nazi files from Berlin.

"It is supposed to be Hitler's hideout," an air force officer said, adding that if the raiders found railway cars there, "one guess is as good as another as to what they might contain."

The assault fit into a pattern with two attacks yesterday and today from British and French bases by the U. S. Eighth air force on the packed rail yards and locomotive repair shops at Nuernberg, 90 miles north of Munich, the center of former Nazi propaganda spectacles and an important rail junction. The extraordinarily heavy concentration of traffic at Nuernberg led to speculation that it might be a movement of government offices from Berlin, or a buildup for the defense of Vienna.

Hitler's retreat is at Obersalzberg (upper Salt Mountain) on the edge of Berchtesgaden. The only previous attack on the immediate vicinity (other top Nazi leaders have homes in the area, too) occurred several months ago when a force of American heavies hit Salzburg, Austrian border town just across from Berchtesgaden.

The Thunderbolts knocked out a locomotive and eight rail cars in the attack. At towns nearby they set fire to two passenger trains, destroyed a troop train estimated to have 150 soldiers aboard, and destroyed or damaged nearly 50 rail cars, some loaded with tanks.

(There was no indication that Hitler's retreat on Obersalzberg itself. See—THUNDERBOLTS—Page 7

Heads of Gas Co. Re-Named

All officers and directors were re-elected at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Gas and Electric company, held in the company's offices Tuesday evening.

Officers and directors returned were Lee H. Barker, president; Frank Henry, chairman of the board; Darwin Follett, Coloma, vice president; Robert S. Holcomb, Nekeosa, secretary; and John H. Peters, treasurer.

Reporting on the company's business in 1944, Mr. Barker pointed out that "in spite of wartime restrictions, the year was a successful one."

"Our current ratio of assets to liabilities has increased to 8.1 to 1, which is an exceedingly strong position," he reported. In looking forward in 1945, he said that much would depend upon the company's ability to obtain appliances and equipment now held up by wartime conditions.

F. Byrnes, who gave the job to WMC, said that agency "will also be prepared to give any interpretations or explanations which may be requested."

Officials stated meanwhile that WMC Chief Paul V. McNutt will not have his enforcement machinery ready for 48 hours.

The curfew, which is effective next Monday midnight, probably will be retained "at least as long as we are fighting a two-front war," one high authority who withheld use of his name, said.

The fuel conservation measure brought a statement from Byrnes today expressing gratification with public response to the curfew request.

"The office of war mobilization and reconstruction," he said, "is gratified with the immediate public response to the request for midnight closing of all places of entertainment."

"Not only has the management of many of these places already pledged cooperation but also state and city officials have indicated their

See—CURFEW—Page 7

Marines Lose 3,650 as Gains on Central Iwo Airfield Are Recorded

Battle Envelopes Entire Iwo Island

Advance Under Steady Hail of Fire

BY AL DOPKING
U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam —(P)— Approximately 3,650 marines were killed or wounded in the first 48 hours of the battle for Iwo Jima, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today as he reported the leathernecks made general advances ranging up to 1,000 yards on the island's central air field.

Nimitz listed approximately 3,500 enlisted men and 150 officers as casualties — killed, wounded and missing. He said 3,063 of the wounded have been evacuated, indication about 600 were killed or missing.

There was no estimate of Japanese losses.

Tank led marines, holding firm control of more than a third of the island, began an enveloping drive against the fighter field, known as Motoyama No. 2. The Fifth marine division by-passed the southern tip of the field in a flanking move, preparatory to striking at it from the west, while the Fourth division pushed directly toward the center of the airfield.

Under Heavy Fire
Every yard of the advance was made under a steady hail of Japanese machine gun, mortar, rifle and rocket fire over wet, rocky slopes criss-crossed with revetments, pillboxes, blockhouses, and reinforced sniper holes. Mines and tank traps were plentiful.

The marine drive stemmed from Motoyama airfield No. 1, the island's prized bomber field captured yesterday noon 80 hours ahead of schedule.

About 700 yards separate these two fields, the only completed air strips on the island, 750 miles south of Tokyo.

Other devil dogs crawled 100 painful yards up the slopes of Suribachi volcano, a fortress mountain on the southern tip of the island from which Japanese guns dominate every inch of the dismal ground the Yanks control.

Tank Attack
Vicious Japanese defenders attempted one small tank supported nighttime counterattack and almost constant infiltration, both coordinated with mortar, rocket and artillery barrages.

All attempts were broken up by the marines, with the aid of illuminating flares fired throughout the night by the American invasion fleet lying offshore. The flares exposed virtually every Japanese attempt at nighttime maneuvers.

Naval guns, masses of marine artillery, carrier planes, tanks and individual marine units combined in pulverizing Japanese defenses which cover the entire volcanic island. But the marines still face an uphill fight.

The northern mass of the island rises about 50 yards above Motoyama airfield No. 2, which lies on a plateau. The marines had to climb slopes to approach it from any direction.

Pvt. Francis Faehling Wounded in France

Mrs. Francis Faehling, 860 Cliff street, was notified by the war department Tuesday that her husband, Pvt. Francis Faehling, was wounded in action in France February 2.

An infantryman, Private Faehling entered service July 21, 1944, and went overseas in December.

Nekoosa Soldier Is Wounded in Action

Mrs. Lawrence Hobart of Nekoosa has received the Purple Heart, which was awarded to her husband, Pvt. Lawrence Hobart, for wounds received in action January 23.

Private Hobart was serving in Luxembourg when he was wounded.

Close Thursday

In observance of Washington's birthday Thursday, both the Wood County and First National banks will be closed, as well as offices in the county courthouse and Wisconsin Rapids Building and Loan association.

There will be no rural or city mail deliveries and, although the postoffice lobby will be open, there will be no window sales. City hall offices will remain open and both city and county law enforcement agencies will be on duty, as well as the local fire department.

KILLED BY ACCIDENT
Stangelville —(P)— Mrs. Christ Mazanetz, 67, was killed yesterday when she was struck by a car while crossing a street.

Argentine Issue Explodes At Mexico City Conference

Chapultepec Castle, Mexico—(P)—The Argentine issue exploded at the first preliminary meeting of the inter-American conference today with a demand by Paraguay that it be given immediate consideration.

The head of the Paraguayan delegation, Dr. Celso R. Velazquez, brought up the Argentine case as the first point in discussion of the conference agenda.

The meeting was a preliminary session of the heads of delegations to agree upon an agenda, elect a president, and pass on rules for the conference. Mexican foreign minister Ezequiel Padilla was elected president.

Paraguay demanded that the Argentine issue be given immediate consideration, which would have meant that it would take precedence over security, economic and political issues.

This was turned down, however, and Argentina is left for discussion after all the other points are cleared away, a procedure which Padilla said would contribute enormously to the success of the conference.