

For Wisconsin: Cloudy tonight. Light rain, extreme east, clearing west and central portions late tonight. Slightly below freezing temperatures north and west central portion tonight.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

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Thirty-First Year—No. 9764.

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Single Copy Five Cents

REDS NEAR CENTER OF BERLIN

SNEAK JAPANESE ATTACK RETAKES OKINAWA TOWN

BY AL DOPKING
Guam—(AP)—Japanese troops, infiltrating heavily under cover of darkness, this morning recaptured Kakazu town on western Okinawa. It had been taken by the U. S. 27th division in the invasion campaign which has cost the enemy 11,738 troops since April 1.

One officer described the drive south as "damn slow and not cheap."

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, reporting progress up to 5 p. m. yesterday, the fifth day of the all-out American push, said "no substantial changes had been made in the lines" despite continued attacks with thunderous naval, air and artillery support.

Invasion Two islets

Nimitz reported also the marine invasion of two small islets off Okinawa, another heavy Japanese air raid against American ground positions and shipping at Okinawa in which "one light unit" of the fleet was sunk, an effective two Jimsu-based Mustang sweep of the enemy's mainland island of Honshu and a carrier-plane attack on the northern Ryukyus.

Major Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the 24th army corps—the 7th, 27th and 96th divisions—counted 11,738 Japanese killed and 27 taken prisoner since D-Day in southern Okinawa, his zone of action.

This did not include enemy casualties on the nine Kerama islands and Ie Shima offshore, captured by the 7th division, or any of the Japanese slain by the First and Sixth marine divisions which overran northern Okinawa.

On Ie alone, 736 Japanese were killed in the first three days of the five-day campaign which ended Friday.

U.S. 42 Miles From Davao

BY SPENCER DAVIS
Manila—(AP)—Skirting unexplored swamplands and boating up crocodile-infested rivers, 24th division Yanks have captured Pikit, 32 air miles from the Mindanao island beachhead. This put them 42 miles from the city limits of Davao, a major port of the Philippines.

The 32nd division, fighting approximately 750 miles to the north, began its fourth year of overseas duty by battling in holed up caves in the rugged Balete pass area in the Caraballo mountains of northern Luzon.

The 112th regiment of this division counted its 1,000th dead Japanese soldier in the current cave fighting in the Santa Maria valley, northeast of Manila. Headquarters reported that many live Japanese remain to be dug out.

Brakes Found Faulty In Minor Accident

A car driven by Mrs. Gertrude Donahue, Route 4, was involved in a collision with a truck driven by Lester Kiehl, Auburndale, Saturday while both were going south on Fourth avenue. No one was injured but the truck was slightly damaged. The brakes were found to be faulty on the Donahue vehicle and she was instructed by city police to correct them. The city and county police are conducting a brake-check in cooperation with a national program and are testing all cars involved in accidents and those that appear to have faulty brakes.

Hold Everything



"Call my wife and tell her I'll be late for supper!"



KILLED ON ROMBLON—Pvt. Howard "Sammy" Crowns, Nekoosa, was killed in action on Romblon island in the central Philippines according to a war department telegram received by his wife, Geneva. He was a well-known athlete and had been in service 11 months.

Nekoosa Star Athlete Killed In Philippines

Pvt. Howard R. "Sammy" Crowns, whose wife, Geneva, lives on Route 1, Nekoosa, was killed in action March 23, on Romblon island in the central Philippines, according to a war department telegram received by the soldier's wife this week-end.

Private Crowns, an outstanding athlete in central Wisconsin for many years was serving with the 19th infantry.

He was born in Nekoosa, February 2, 1919, and attended Alexander High school, Nekoosa, where he starred in football and basketball. He later played baseball in the Wood County league and amateur basketball with the Modern Shoes. Playing in the City Basketball league, he established a Lincoln field-house scoring record of 36 points in one game and 47 points in one fray for the Lowell school record.

On May 31, 1939, he married Miss Geneva Jackson. Prior to joining the army, he was employed by the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper company.

The 26-year-old Nekoosan entered military service May 22, 1944 and received his basic training at Camp Hood, Tex. Following a furlough last October, he was transferred to Fort Ord, Calif., and left for overseas in December, 1944.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two small daughters, Jeanne and Juanita; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Crowns, Jr., Nekoosa; five sisters, Mrs. Andy Pakan, Chicago; Mrs. Myron Hartjes, Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. William Cook, Jean and Elizabeth, at Nekoosa; and three brothers, Aelred, at Nekoosa; and Clayton and Conrad of Wisconsin Rapids. The latter brother leaves for military service Wednesday.

WLB APPROVES COAL CONTRACT

Washington—(AP)—The war labor board today approved the new national soft coal contract, subject to a grant of coal price increases by OPA and approval of the latter by Economic Stabilizer Davis.

The contract involves 400,000 bituminous mine workers, and provides an increase of \$1.07 in the basic earnings of the average inside day worker.

The board disposed of its role in the government's consideration of the wartime pact a week before the 30-day extension of the old contract expires, April 30.

The office of price administration, which has had about the same amount of time to look into the operators' plea for price increases to offset the payroll rise, now has one week in which to act without further extension of the old agreement. John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers joined with the operators in asking for price relief, estimated by some producers at about 25 cents a ton.

WILL LIMIT AGE
Washington—(AP)—Gen. George C. Marshall advised congress today that as soon as military conditions permit the army will adopt a policy of sending overseas no soldiers younger than 19.

Groups Will Share Work In Collection

Further arrangements for the United National Clothing collection to be conducted in this vicinity Friday and Saturday have been announced and the names of those participating in work at the collection center released.

The collection depot, which will be established at the canning center (Mead-Witter block), will open at 8 o'clock Friday morning and the Community club will be in charge of collections from then until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Local church women's groups will then take over, the Trinity Moravian in charge from 5 until 6, First Baptist, 6 until 7, First Congregational, 7 to 8, and First Methodist, 8 to 9 o'clock.

On Saturday morning, the center will open at 9 o'clock with a group from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in charge until 10, Emmanuel Lutheran from 10 to 11, First Moravian, 10 to 12, and S.S. Peter and Paul 12 until 1 in the afternoon. The Rotary club will have charge throughout Saturday afternoon.

Kiwanis club has charge of publicity for the drive and the Elks, American Legion and Legion auxiliary will combine to aid in storage, packing and shipping of clothing.

It has also been announced by the Rev. T. E. Mullen of St. Alexander Catholic church at Port Edwards that the sodality of that church will take care of all handling and packing of clothing and persons of all denominations in Port Edwards have been asked to bring their contributions to St. Alexander church.

The same procedure will be followed in Nekoosa with Mrs. Ignatz Koller as chairman and persons of all denominations bringing their items to the Sacred Heart Catholic church. Collection dates for both Nekoosa and Port Edwards, however, will be April 25-26-27.

Elks Will Install Officers Tuesday

Installation of officers, elected the latter part of March, will take place at the Elks club at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening, it was announced today. Those to be installed are W. J. Foote, exalted ruler; Earl Rember, esteemed leading knight; Robert Mader, esteemed 10 yal knight; William Zonner, esteemed lecturing knight; secretary, Edw. Brenner; treasurer, Stanton Mead; tiler, George Rost.

Those to be installed to appointive offices are Stanley Clapp, chaplain; Wilbur Boger, inner guard; B. T. Ziegler, esquire. Elks are reminded that there will be but one more meeting this season following the Tuesday installation.

ATTEND MEETING

Thirty city, town and village assessors attended a meeting this morning where instructions were given relative to assessments in Wood county. The meeting was conducted by Soren Rasmussen, Wausau, deputy supervisor of assessments office.

Russians at Elbe as Patton Strikes South

BULLETIN
London—(AP)—Marshal Stalin announced today that the Red army had reached the Elbe river. This may mean that the Russians have linked up with American forces stationed at numerous places along the west bank of the Elbe and at some points on the east bank.

Stalin also announced the entry of Berlin from the south by Russian forces and the capture of Cottbus, 47 miles southeast of the capital.

BY JAMES M. LONG
Paris—(AP)—Lt. Gen. George Patton's Third army, running wild on a 85-mile front in a southward smash toward Adolf Hitler's Alpine redoubt, advance to within 13 miles of Regensburg today.

Infantry reached the Naab river 13 miles north of Regensburg against only minor opposition, while other troops burst through the enemy's Danube river line to within 50 miles of Munich.

In the north, the British opened the final onslaught against Bremen and the American First and Ninth armies anxiously awaited a junction with the Russians—expected momentarily.

The First army captured Dessau (120,000), 52 miles southwest of beleaguered Berlin, along with 21,373 prisoners. The fall of Dessau left only 14 German cities under the Nazi flag.

Blackout Imposed
Patton imposed a security blackout soon after his Third army captured two bridges intact across the Naab river, a tributary of the Danube, northwest of Regensburg. Blackouts in the past have cloaked breakthroughs of transcendent importance.

Resistance stiffened late in the day, however, as Third army troops started encountering knots of fanatical SS troops, possibly garrison forces of the redoubt.

Patton's new offensive carried within 128 miles of Berchtesgaden and within 25 of the Danubian city of Regensburg. His troops reached within 125 miles of the Austrian stronghold of Linz in a swift advance which severed many of the routes between the redoubt and the Pilsen-Prague munitions area—Hitler's last known arsenal of size.

Reaches Danube
The Third army operated on the left of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh army, which closed up to the Danube to within 50 miles of Munich and 110 of the Brenner pass. The French on the right curled around Lake Constance, western edge of the redoubt, and closed up to the Swiss border behind a 1,000-square-mile death trap sprung in the Black forest.

Stuttgart and Freiburg, two of Hitler's last major cities, fell to Gen. Jacob L. Devers' Sixth army group. The Seventh army was flooding across the Danube on an intact bridge.



BERLIN SHATTERED BY SOVIETS—Russian troops are fighting in the center of Berlin, after having encircled the city except for a nine mile gap in the Spandau direction northwest of the city. Hodges 1st army north of Patton's front nears a linking with the Russians, while the 3rd armored division still battles for Dessau on the Elbe. (NEA Telephoto)

130 Present As Foresters Observe 50th Anniversary

About 130 people attended the celebration and banquet in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul Court 496, Catholic Order of Foresters Sunday in the school gymnasium.

Principal speakers were Ralph De Porter, Moline, Ill., high court trustee, and A. X. Umhoefer, Colby, Wis., state vice-chief ranger. Mr. Porter, after congratulating the court on the progress made in the past 50 years, presented eight members with gold emblem pins in honor of their 50 years service as a Forester. Three of these were charter members and are still active today, the court started with 22 members 50 years ago and increased to 241 adult and 82 juvenile members. The three charter members are John Flanagan, Frank Collier and Matthew Eriser. Others who joined that same year and received 50-year pins are Joseph Hultmaier, Frank Billmeyer, John E. Schnabel, Frank L. Steib and Thomas Slatery, Ladysmith, Wis.

Mr. Umhoefer said: "We live by three principles, faith, hope and charity. If organizations all over the world had subscribed to these principles in the past, there probably wouldn't be turmoil and strife in the world today. Now the world

is recognizing the need for practicing the "golden rule" and are trying to set up a world of peace and harmony." Two diamond-studded, gold "Legion of Honor" buttons were then presented by Mr. Umhoefer to George Gerum and Frank Simenon in recognition of efforts during their years as a Forester.

Toastmaster Byron B. Conway paid honor to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Reding, who recently resigned as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul church due to illness and acknowledged congratulatory messages from Mrs. Mary Kaudy, representing the St. Rose Court of Lady Foresters, Mrs. Patricia Nash, chief ranger, the Revs. Robert E. Agnew and Arthur G. Dreson of SS. Peter and Paul church, and Dominic P. Liebman, of St. Lawrence church. Others at the speakers table were Teofil Sabota, chief ranger of Court 496, Elmer Dashiern, secretary, and C. J. Santoski, district supervisor.

Forester members and guests received holy communion at the 8:15 solemn high mass to start the day's program. During the afternoon 16 juvenile members were initiated by the St. Mary's Court, 498, of Wausau under the supervision of Anton, Paszek, Wausau.

Hitler in Berlin to Stay, Nazis Say

London—(AP)—Adolf Hitler is in Berlin and has decided to remain there, the Hamburg radio said today in a broadcast directed at Berlin residents in an attempt to convince them the invaded capital would not fall.

"The fuhrer is directing the battle from the front line in Berlin and he has thrown in all available forces to stem the Bolshevik onslaught," Hamburg radio said.

Both the tone and wording of the announcement made it clear that rumors were sweeping the Reich that the fuhrer was in flight.

The broadcast said the announcement was made to stem what was described as "fantastic rumors by which the enemy is attempting to undermine the morale of the German people."

Propaganda Minister Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels is also in the capital, the broadcast said. It conceded that the fall of Berlin would virtually mean the end of the war.

"There are two bastions which we cannot and will not cede," Goebbels was quoted as saying, referring to Berlin and Prague, the capital of Bohemia-Moravia.

All Europe Will "Perish"

"If these two bastions fall into enemy hands the whole of Europe will perish with Germany," he said. "Should Bolshevism capture these capitals of the Reich and the protectorate, Europe ceases to exist."

"Many people were afraid that the German lines before Berlin would not hold against the Russian onslaught but now it has been shown that these lines did hold fast after all," the broadcast said.

"We tell the whole world. The fuhrer has decided to stay on in Berlin."

Yesterday a DNB broadcast mentioned a new commander of the Nazi troops in Berlin, previously reported under Lt. Gen. Bruno von Hauenschild, whose fate was not explained.

The name of the new commander was heard here as "Lt. Col. Remer"—possibly Lt. Gen. Emil Remer, who was officially credited with following a plot to seize the city when he was a major in charge of a Wehrmacht battalion during the attempt on Adolf Hitler's life last July.

Authoritative London quarters

professed no knowledge—at least for publication—of Hitler's whereabouts, but one reliable source expressed doubts that the fuhrer, as even Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, president of the capital, was in Berlin.

Thought Morale Booster

This source saw the announcement merely as an attempt to bolster resistance, saying the reported plan for a Nazi retreat into the Bavarian Alps surrounding Hitler'serie at Berchtesgaden would fail if the fuhrer were captured or killed and he could not serve as a "symbol of underground warfare."

"This announcement of Hitler's presence in Berlin was heard here on the Hamburg radio only, the northern transmitter for the German network which has been split into two parts.

The Munich station was on the air with different news broadcasts for the virtually separate south, but could not be clearly monitored here.

A third station was operating on short waves from an unknown site, while the Morse system news services were silent and the DNB European service announced it would curtail transmissions.

The German radio has given up trying to warn the population of the approach of Allied bombers, which caused programs to be interrupted by aching alarms every few minutes until last week.



Stalin Announces Fall Of Frankfurt on Oder

BY RICHARD KASISCHKE
London—(AP)—Marshal Stalin proclaiming Russian entry into Berlin, announced today the fall of Frankfurt on the Oder and said Red army troops were within four miles of the heart of the embattled German capital.

Stalin in an order of the day directed to 99 generals and 50 other officers said Red army troops had smashed the German capital's defenses and captured Pankow, Oranienburg, Coepenik, Friedrichsfelde—suburban communities on the northwest, north, east and southeast of Berlin.

In addition the order said Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian army troops captured Birkenwerder and Henningsdorf—the later on the west bank of the Havel river and four miles from Lake Tegel on the northwest fringe of the capital. Wandlitz and Karlshof also fell to the advancing Russians.

The order which directed that Moscow's victory guns give 20 salvos from 224 guns said units of the Polish First army under Lt. Gen. Poplawski participated in the Russian victory.

Pankow is four miles north of the center of the German capital and Friedrichsfelde four miles east of the center. Oranienburg is 7 miles north of greater Berlin and Coepenik is nine miles south east of the city. Karlshof is near Friedrichsfelde and Birkenwerder close to Oranienburg.

Frankfurt-on-the-Oder was by-passed by the Russians at the start of the offensive against Berlin a week ago. The order said the Russians had advanced from 37 to 62 miles from their jump off points.

FIFTH 35 MILES BEYOND BOLOGNA

BULLETIN
Rome—(AP)—Allied troops of the Fifteenth army group have smashed to the river Po at several undisclosed locations, it was announced tonight.

BY NOLAN NORGARD
Rome—(AP)—U. S. Fifth army troops spearing 35 miles beyond Bologna reached nearly to the Po river in Italy today, and battled within 220 to 240 miles of French-American forces hitting southward in Germany.

The swift lunge across the Po plain—littered with wreckage of 1,700 Nazi vehicles destroyed or damaged by Allied planes yesterday—carried 35 miles north and northwest of fallen Bologna, Allied headquarters said, but it did not specify points reached.

But the thrust bypassed Modena, 22 miles northwest of Bologna, and may actually have charged to the Po river, doubtful line of a new German stand. The Po curves within 30 miles of Bologna due north, and 35 to 45 miles of that city to the northwest.

British Eighth army forces besieged Ferrara, 3 1/2 miles from the Po and 30 northeast of Bologna, from positions as close as 1 1/2 miles away.

Aldorf Resident Succumbs; Funeral Services Thursday

Mrs. Fredericka Mattheis, 72, died at 1 o'clock this morning at her residence in Aldorf, following a short illness.

Funeral services will be Thursday afternoon from the Krohn and Bernard chapel in the Seneca Lutheran church at 2 o'clock, the Rev. W. C. Hugelbush officiating. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.

She was born in Germany, January 18, 1873, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Seehagen, and came to Central Wisconsin at the age of 10, where she has lived all her life. In 1898 she was married to Vincent Stocker, who died 12 years later. In 1907, she was married to Christian Mattheis, who succumbed in 1936.

There are seven surviving children, Arthur Stocker, Waterloo, Ind.; Mrs. George Gaetke, Port Edwards; Alvin Stocker and Hilda Mattheis, Wisconsin Rapids; Lawrence Stocker, Dulhart, Tex.; Bernard Mattheis, Marshfield, and Henry Mattheis, at home. There are also two step-daughters, Mrs. Amelia Anderson, Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Mary Marx, Long Beach, Calif., and eight grandchildren.

The body will remain at Krohn and Bernard until time of services.

Sludge Haulers Are Warned By Sheriff

Due to numerous complaints, Sheriff Henry J. Becker issued a warning to all sludge haulers in this area to check their trucks for clean wheels and overloaded boxes before leaving the sewage disposal plant.

"Sludge is dangerous, as it is greasy," he pointed out. "Trucks will be checked regularly from now on and violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," the sheriff stated.

'Who Isn't Glad?'

U.S. First Army Headquarters, Germany—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First army took its 800,000th prisoner today.

He was a German staff sergeant, Martin Holland, a four times wounded, who said: "The war will be over in two weeks. Who isn't glad?"