

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Slowly increasing cloudiness and not quite so cold tonight. Sunday cloudy and occasional light rain in afternoon.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a.m.: Maximum 59; minimum 26.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

What Can You
SPARE
That They Can
WEAR?

Thirty-First Year—No. 9769.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Saturday, April 28, 1945.

Single Copy Five Cents

JAPS SAY YANKS PREPARING FOR NEW OFFENSIVE

BY LEONARD MILLMAN
(Associated Press War Editor)
Japanese propagandists today forecast another American invasion stemming from Okinawa where three U.S. infantry divisions fought through tortuous terrain to the northern edges of two battle-scarred airstrips on the island's southern front.

In the day's most sensational action, a British armored column sped 50 miles through southern Burma to within 62 miles of Rangoon. Against equally light opposition the U.S. 24th division drove another 10 miles through the Apo mountains of Mindanao in the southern Philippines, coming within sight of Davao gulf. Japanese stubbornly defended mountain positions on three northern Philippine sectors.

Tokyo made no attempt to guess where the next U.S. amphibious blow might strike. Eighty transports, escorted by at least 30 warships, were reported in the Okinawa area.

Prepare For Operations

Most of these have been cruising around the area, the Domei news agency said in a dispatch reported that it appeared U.S. naval forces in Okinawa waters have been preparing for new operations for the last few days."

A small force of Nipponese suicide planes attacked this fleet yesterday, radio Tokyo claimed sinking two cruisers, including the Savannah, and four transports. Japanese also asserted a surface craft sank a submarine in the southwest Pacific.

A hundred or more Superforts raided six enemy air bases on Kyushu island in Japan proper this morning for the third consecutive day. One B-29 was lost in yesterday's strike.

Some 325 miles to the south U.S. 7th division patrols crawled almost to the northern edge of Yonahara airstrip on the east coast of southern Okinawa, while the 27th smashed to within striking distance of Machinato field on the west. The 96th took more rugged hills in the center of the ridged and cave-marked line which would make possible a final assault on both strips.

Planes Support Advance

The American advance through Mindanao was supported by rocket-firing planes. But, the 24th found scant opposition as it came within sight of Digos on Davao gulf where heavy fighting is anticipated.

Sixteen enemy vessels, including a submarine, were hit by Southwest Pacific bombers while the U.S. 14th air force in China supported Chinese ground forces and heavily raided enemy communication lines.

Chinese held the three-pronged Japanese push toward the U.S. air base at Chikliang, 250 miles southeast of Chingking, on a crescent-shaped front 75 miles from Chikliang. Repeated attacks were beaten back in the center, infiltrating groups surrounded and annihilated on one flank, and fierce counterattacks pressed on the other.

Heavy fighting developed in southeastern China where Japanese apparently were trying to broaden their China-Indo-China corridor as a defensive measure.

Early Rapids Resident Dies

Mrs. Charles M. Kruger, 75, died at her home, 521 Sixteenth street south, at 6:45 this morning following a heart attack Friday evening. She had been a resident of Wisconsin Rapids since the age of three.

Mrs. Kruger, the former Augusta Duberstein, was born in Pomerania, Germany, August 4, 1869, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Duberstein, who came there as pioneers. She married Charles M. Kruger at Kellner November 19, 1903. A daughter died in infancy and Mr. Kruger died April 11, 1933.

She is survived by two sons, Elmer and William Kruger, both of Wisconsin Rapids, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 Monday afternoon at Immanuel Lutheran church, the Rev. E. G. Nechle officiating. Burial will be Forest Hill cemetery. The body is at the Baker Mortuary.

Hold Everything



"All right, all right! I'll transfer you to the air corps!"



BERLIN'S INNER DEFENSE SPLIT, GERMANS REPORT

BY RICHARD KASISCHKE

London—(AP)—The German high command declared today that Soviet troops had crashed through Berlin's inner defense ring and were fighting on Alexanderplatz, site of Gestapo headquarters. Nazi planes were flying in reinforcements, food, and ammunition to the fanatical garrison, the German communiqué said.

Russian troops have captured Pasewalk, 28 miles northwest of Stettin, on the main road to the Baltic port of Stralsund, Marshal Stalin announced tonight in an order of the day.

This sweep by the Second White Russian army also won Strasburg, 10 miles west of Pasewalk, in the drive to link with British forces in northern Germany.

German armies facing the Americans on the Elbe have been withdrawn in an attempt to relieve the capital, the war bulletin said. Earlier, the Germans said a relief army was nearing Berlin from a Russian trap to the southeast.

Only one-quarter of the flaming, crumbling city remained in Nazi hands. Soviet troops were boring in block by block, and other divisions sped westward in a push to isolate the last Nazi Baltic ports.

Russian correspondents in Berlin declared trapped Germans were trying to escape in wholesale fashion. German officers could not halt the suicidal resistance because of Nazi SS overlords, the correspondents added.

These front dispatches said many Nazis were discarding uniforms for civilian clothes.

Lies Unattended Overnight After Shooting Accident

Irv Gukenberger, 59, Route 5, was alive miraculously today after having accidentally shot himself through the neck yesterday afternoon while shooting squirrels on his farm and lying unattended for at least 16 hours until a neighbor heard his cries for help and took him to the Riverview hospital early this morning.

According to Gukenberger's story, he was trying to shoot some squirrels near a corn crib on his farm, where he lives alone, and had set the 12-gauge shotgun against a fence while he crawled through. As he reached through the fence to get the gun, it apparently caught on the wire and went off, the charge striking him in the neck. He then crawled about 150 yards to the porch of his house where he collapsed. About 6 o'clock this morning, Renée Rochelle, a neighbor, was awakened by his cries for help and came to his aid.

His condition is considered good by the attending physician, who said it was a miracle that he survived the ordeal. The temperature was recorded at 26 degrees during the night.

Gachnang Services To Be Held Monday

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon at the Pittsville Funeral home for Henry Gachnang, 68, who died at his home in the town of Hansen at 10:10 Friday morning after a long illness.

A lifelong resident of Wood county, Mr. Gachnang, was born at Pittsville September 24, 1881, and moved with his parents to the town of Hansen when he was three years old. Two sisters, Mrs. G. H. Stahl and Mrs. J. M. Hunt, both of Madison, and two brothers, Fred and Ed Gachnang, survive.

Expect Liberation of Denmark in 5 Weeks

Stockholm—(AP)—"Fortress Denmark" looms today as the weakest of all Nazi strongholds. Patriots confidently predict its liberation within five weeks.

EXTENDING MAINS

A sewer and water extension is being installed on Fifteenth street, between Oak and Peach streets, according to Carl Cajanus, city engineer.

Pfc. Bob Manley Is Injured in Germany

Pfc. Bob Manley, whose wife resides at 450½ Fifth avenue north, was injured in action in Germany recently, according to a war department telegram received by Mrs. Manley.

A member of infantry in the Third army, Private Manley entered the armed forces in July, 1944 and went overseas last January. He is now in a hospital in England and has been awarded the Purple Heart.

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Mussolini, Two Top Advisers Reported Nabbed by Italians

(By the Associated Press)

A Milan radio station which called itself "the voice of the Italian National Liberation committee" said today that Benito Mussolini, disguised as a German soldier, had been arrested on the west shore of Lake Como.

The station, in a broadcast recorded by the federal communications commission, added that two of Il Duce's top ministers also had been captured.

Capture of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, war minister in Mussolini's

puppet north Italian government and one-time commander of Italian forces in North Africa, has been announced by Italian patriot headquarters in Milan, the broadcast said.

Guido Ruffarini-Guidi, former secretary of state and minister of the interior in Mussolini's Fascist government, was captured by Italian patriots at Fortezza while attempting to escape into Switzerland, the radio station added. Ruffarini-Guidi will be brought before a people's court, the broadcast declared.

The general business committee of the city council met yesterday afternoon at the city hall to discuss the sale of two pieces of property, one on Canal street, the other on Drake and Seventh streets. Recommendations will be submitted to the city council at a meeting Tuesday evening.

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