

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Fair north and central. Cloudy, occasional showers south tonight. Friday fair, mild.

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A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

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FIRST, THIRD ARMIES RACE AHEAD



'Things Happened Fast' When Rangers Sprung Prisoners, Worden Clark Says

BY DON UNFERTH
The anguished feeling of despair at Corregidor's fall, the horrors of life in a Japanese prison camp, the thrill of being rescued by American Rangers, the joy of setting foot on the shores of America again—these mixed emotions and the story behind them were unfolded here today by Worden S. Clark, brother of Mrs. Art Stewart, 540 Wisconsin street, Wisconsin Rapids.

Mr. Clark, who will be 64 years old in June, was a prisoner of the Japanese from May 6, 1942, to January 30, 1945—certainly a long, harrowing time to spend under the yoke of the hated Japanese.

Mr. Clark will never forget how 120 grim, tough members of the Sixth Ranger infantry battalion, together with some 300 gallant Filipino guerrillas, rescued him and some 500 other Jap-held prisoners

of war from a camp near Cabaatuan, Luzon, in the Philippines.

Tells of Rescue
Sitting back in his easy chair at the home of his sister in surroundings so different from those which he had been forced to submit to only a few short months ago, his eyes shine as he tells of the historic rescue pulled off by the volunteer Rangers.

"Things happened fast that night," he said. "It was about 8 o'clock the evening of January 30. The night was very dark. The first inkling I had that something out of the ordinary was taking place came when I heard shouting from the direction of the Jap barracks."

"I hit the ground on my stomach as flat as I could," he continued. "Then the shooting kind of let up. A Ranger poked his head into our barracks and shouted to us to make

Ruhr Nearly Cut Off; Berlin 199 Miles Away

BY JAMES M. LONG
Paris—(P)—The U. S. First army wheeled north in a 40-mile spur which came within 68 miles of cutting off the Ruhr today and the Third army raced to within 199 miles of Berlin.

The First army, unmasking a maneuver which threatened to block out a rich Ruhr and east-Rhine area 65 miles long and 50 miles wide, reached the area of Langwiesse, only 48 miles southeast of Hamm, eastern exit of the Ruhr. It also reached Frankenberg, 200 miles southwest of Berlin.

The illustrious Fourth armored division, pacing the rush of the Third army, roared eastward for 20 miles on the First army's right flank and entered Lauterbach, 199 miles southwest of Berlin on a sideroad to Leipzig.

On the northern fringe of the Ruhr, the U. S. Ninth army captured Haltern, 68 miles northwest of Langwiesse.

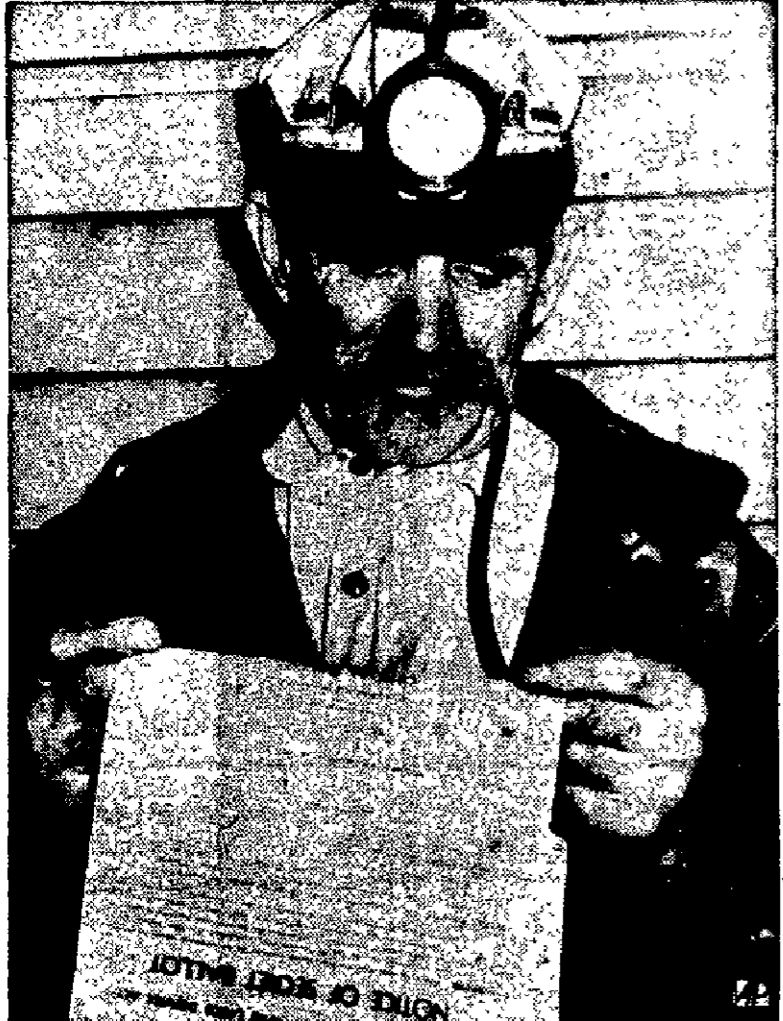
Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, in swinging around the Ruhr, already had reached a point 65 miles directly east of Cologne.

All over the front British and American troops raced through wide breaks in German lines. North of the Ruhr they were reported menacing Hannover, 142 miles west of Berlin.

The First army's surge placed it within 78 miles of Muenster, also menaced by the forces north of the Ruhr.

The Third army also was advancing along the southwestern flank of the First army, but most of the front was under a news blackout which prevented full disclosing of whereabouts of the probing columns of armor and tank-riding infantry.

YANKS INVADE CEBU—This photo, one of the first radiotelephotos from Manila, shows one of the first waves of Yank infantrymen scrambling ashore on Cebu island in the central Philippines. The invasion forces, reported within two and a half miles of burning Cebu City, landed on the heavily mined beaches only after an intensive aerial and naval bombardment had prepared the way. (NEA telephoto from signal corps radiotelephoto.)



MINER STUDIES BALLOT—Peter Sacolavich (above), a miner for 40 years, Liberty, Pa., looks over a sample of the ballot the soft coal miners used when they voted to strike in an NLRB election yesterday if ordered to do so by their leader, John L. Lewis.

Red Troops Pierce German Defenses to Reach Austria

London — (P) — The Red army burst through the splintered defenses of the Bratislava gap in the Danube valley and reached the Austrian border, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

The big Stalin tanks and armored cars of Marshal Fedor Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army, smashing ahead from captured Cosna, hammered at the defenses of Pambagen, 39 miles southeast of Vienna, St. Johann on the frontier to the northeast and Moson (Wieselburg), near the Danube 21 miles southeast of Bratislava, Moscow dispatches said.

"There are no indications that any of these tanks and armored cars actually crossed the frontier into Austria," according to P Correspondent Eddy Gimore.

The German communiqué announced a withdrawal north of the Danube to the Nitra river and a 25-mile advance by the Russians from the broken Hron river line.

This push in Slovakia, dovetailing with the assault below the great river of southeastern Europe, apparently placed the Russians close to the city of Nitra, 40 miles east of Bratislava, capital of the puppet government of Slovakia, and possibly as close as 30 miles to the border of Moravia.

There was no word of the coordinated offensive of Marshal Ivan Konev from Silesia toward Vienna and Prague from the northeast, but the Russians were heavily bombing Maerisch-Osttau in the Moravian gap in their approach from that direction.

Evacuate Kahleitz Cape
In the north the German communiqué announced the evacuation of Kahleitz Cape.

Okinawa Battered Sixth Day
Guam—(P)—Okinawa underwent its sixth day's bombardment by the U. S. fleet as hundreds of carrier aircraft knifed into its remaining strongholds, fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Radio Tokyo held to its report that Yank troops have landed on the Kerama islands, asserting a fleet of "20 to 30 transports" is attempting to supply American invasion forces on the islands, 15 miles west of Okinawa. There was no confirmation from fleet headquarters of any of these reports.

Citing preliminary reports of damage inflicted on the enemy, Nimitz's communiqué said 38 aircraft were destroyed; 19 ships crippled including three destroyers or destroyer escorts damaged, five cargo ships damaged and many small craft wrecked. Military installations including submarine pens at Unten bay on Okinawa were heavily hit.

The totals make today's incomplete Pacific boxscore for the past ten day carrier and battleship offensive read:
319 aircraft probably destroyed. \$ 57 or more ships sunk or damaged, including carriers and a 45,000-ton battleship.
Nimitz acknowledged "some fleet units" suffered damage "under enemy air attacks" including "serious damage" to one destroyer, one "larger unit" and another ship, and "minor damage to several others." None of these ships was reported lost.

The fleet's assault on the Ryukyus by air and sea is probably the heaviest in the Pacific and imperial Japanese headquarters implied in today's communiqué the attack is continuing into the seventh day.

Tokyo also reported carrier plane attacks on the naval base of Kure on Honshu island, early today.

ROOSEVELT RETURNS
Washington—(P)—President Roosevelt returned to the White House today from a four-day visit to his home at Hyde Park, N.Y.

Will Take Charge
Washington—(P)—Maj. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, who has been with the office of war mobilization and reconstruction, was designated today to take charge of civil affairs in Germany when that country is occupied.

Extend Price Control
Washington—(P)—Extension of the price control act for one year without change was approved today by the senate banking committee.

Only Half of Tire Bids Can Be Filled
W. Fred Bushnell, chief clerk of the South Wood county war price and rationing board, announced today that only 50 per cent of those who have applied for tires will receive them this month. He also pointed out that the shortage is not only due to lack of rubber but of fiber as well, and added that next month may find the quota cut even more severely. Holders of B and C gasoline ration books are affected by this cut, and those to receive tires will be determined by merit.

Losses Close To 900,000
Washington—(P)—American combat casualties reported since Pearl Harbor neared the 900,000 mark today with the army setting its losses at 780,043.

The latest navy report added 92, 819 to the army toll, making the aggregate 872,862. This was an increase of 13,275 from the preceding weeks report.

Mr. Bushnell also issued a reminder to all truck owners to watch their mail boxes today for their second quarterly gasoline rations which were mailed out last night.

Secretary of War Stimson said the army's total was based on a compilation of individual names received here through March 21, and reflected actual battlefield developments through the end of February and the beginning of March.

Resistance Near Kapitana
Fighting was particularly stiff around Kapitana, at the south end of the Balete pass, which leads into the extensive Cayagan valley of northern Luzon.

Albert Zager, 80, Sigel Pioneer, Dies
Albert Zager, 80, who resided on the same farm in the town of Sigel the past 53 years, died there at 4:05 this morning after a week's illness. He came to Wood county from Germany in 1883 and was first employed by the Hansen saw mill at Vesper.

Bombers ranging the China Sea
sank seven freighters, some of them used as transports, and damaged 16 others. Two 3,000-tonners were sunk and 12 smaller ones damaged off French Indo-China. The others were hit off Fochow, China.

Mr. Zager was born in Pomerania, Germany, November 10, 1864, and married Bertha Stake in the town of Sigel May 13, 1892. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1942. She survives with three children, William Zager of Wisconsin Rapids, Henry Zager on the home farm and Mrs. Edwin Haas of the town of Sigel. There are three grandchildren.

St. Paul's the Evangelical Lutheran church will hold Good Friday English services at 12:30 in the afternoon and a German service with holy communion at 7:30 in the evening.

A brother Herman Zager resides in Wisconsin Rapids. A sister, Mrs. Charles Gibson died January 7, 1945.

The body will be taken to the residence Saturday afternoon. Krohn and Berard has charge of funeral arrangements.

Services at Theater
Several religious observances have been planned, one of which will be the noonday service at the Wisconsin theater from 12:05 to 12:45. The Rev. E. G. Kuechle of the Immanuel Lutheran church will preside, but it is pointed out that this is a public service for all who care to attend.



RATION-FREE MEAT GOES THROUGH CUSTOMS — Detroiters who cross the border into Windsor, Canada, to buy ration-free meat are having their packages inspected at the Windsor-Detroit tunnel exit by U. S. custom inspector John Scallen (left), who weighs two chickens.



CHILD RECEIVES AWARD FOR DAD—Her dad, S/Sgt. Martin R. Styer, Jr., a prisoner of war in Austria, 14-month-old Shirley Ann Styer is presented the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal on his behalf by Col. John M. Hutchison, commanding officer at Bolling Field, Va.

DOUGHBOYS DRIVE JAPS INTO HILLS NORTH OF CEBU

BY FRED HAMPSON
Manila—(P)—Doughboys pursued the Japanese into the hills north of Cebu city today, headquarters said, after that demolition wrecked second city of the Philippines was captured in a brisk two-day drive from the Yanks' Cebu island beachhead on the east coast.

GERMANS 'BEATEN'
Washington—(P)—Secretary of War Stimson said today the situation on the western front "makes clear in no uncertain terms" that the German army on the Rhine is "beaten."

Announces Cebu's Capture
Gen. Douglas MacArthur, announcing Cebu's capture today, said the city of 150,000 inhabitants was badly damaged by Japanese demolition crews carrying out their "scorched earth" policy as they did in blasted Manila. The important harbor area, however, was taken virtually intact. It is one of the best in the Philippines.

Polk County D. A. Given Week to Quit Because of Drinking
Madison—(P)—M. J. McDonald, suspended Polk county district attorney, received a week's grace to submit his resignation after a hearing today in Governor Goodland's office at which Polk county officials testified McDonald had been intoxicated repeatedly and neglected his duties.

Postpone Final Senate Vote on Manpower Bill
Washington—(P)—Administration leaders decided informally today to postpone the final senate vote on the manpower bill until next week.

Cpl. Sherman Foss Wounded in Action
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Foss, Neokosa, have been notified by the war department that their son, Cpl. Sherman Foss, USMC, was wounded in the south Pacific and was hospitalized March 3.

Special Services Planned in Observance of Good Friday
This city may join in prayer for the Good Friday observance and for a lasting peace.

'Hour of Success' Near: Churchill
London—(P)—Prime Minister Churchill asserted today that the "hour of success" was near.

'KE' TO GIVE WORD
Washington—(P)—Secretary of War Stimson indicated today that General Eisenhower will give out the first news on the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

Private less optimistic about the prospect for senate acceptance, the administration forces sparred for time in an effort to persuade some of their absent senators to return to the capital.

The administration appeared to have encountered "back row trouble." Some of the junior senators, whose seats are in the rear of the chamber, have balked at accepting the stringent terms of the bill, which provides jail penalties and fines for workers and employers who violate job directives.

Majority Leader Barkley and Senator Thomas (D-Utah), floor manager for the bill, were called to the White House today for a discussion of the situation with President Roosevelt.

His prediction came in a letter endorsing a liberal candidate for commons in a special election to fill a vacancy.