

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Fair with no important temperature change through Sunday.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 67; minimum 33.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

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Thirty-First Year—No. 9743.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Friday, March 30, 1945.

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British Task Force Joins Americans To Blast Okinawa

Nazis Say Supers Hit Tokyo With New Incendiaries

BY ELMONT WAITE
Guam—(AP)—A powerful British task force has joined the mighty American naval assault on the Ryukyu island approaches to the Japanese homeland which the navy announced today is continuing.
Fleet guns and carrier planes poured heavy shells and bombs for the seventh straight day on strategically important targets around Okinawa, Japan's Ryukyu bastion which Tokyo says is expecting

Yanks Take Two Islands Off Cebu

Manila—(AP)—Invasion-seasoned doughboys—Yanks have landed on 13 Philippine islands this month alone—swept ashore on Mactan and Cebu islands off conquered Cebu Wednesday to clear the shipping lanes into that second port of the Archipelago.
Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today that Maj. Gen. William H. Arnold's American division swept across the half-mile strait from Cebu city to secure Opon the main city of Mactan.
The biggest coconut oil refinery in the Philippines is on Mactan, an island about nine miles by four. The big plant was set afire by Japanese demolition crews Monday morning when the Yanks landed on Cebu.
Cavit, a mere dot in Cebu bay, is a former seaplane base.
MacArthur reported that enemy resistance on Cebu itself remained disorganized. Doughboys, stringing north and south from wrecked and burned Cebu city, seized the Naga and Lahug airfields. Lahug has a 5,000 foot concrete runway and parking facilities for 200 planes.
Only sporadic resistance was reported on the various Luzon island fronts. Mopping up in the central sector yielded 1,388 additional enemy dead. MacArthur recently estimated Japanese losses in the Philippines at more than 297,000.
On southern Luzon, 150 Nipponese slipped into the town of Talisay on Lake Taal, well behind American lines, and burned it.



REPORTED KILLED—Sgt. Charles Fitzgerald, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Fitzgerald, 621 Thirteenth avenue north, was reported by the war department to have been killed in action March 1 on Iwo Jima. A member of the Fifth marine division, he had previously been wounded in action in Iwo.

WLB TO SEEK EXTENSION OF COAL CONTRACT

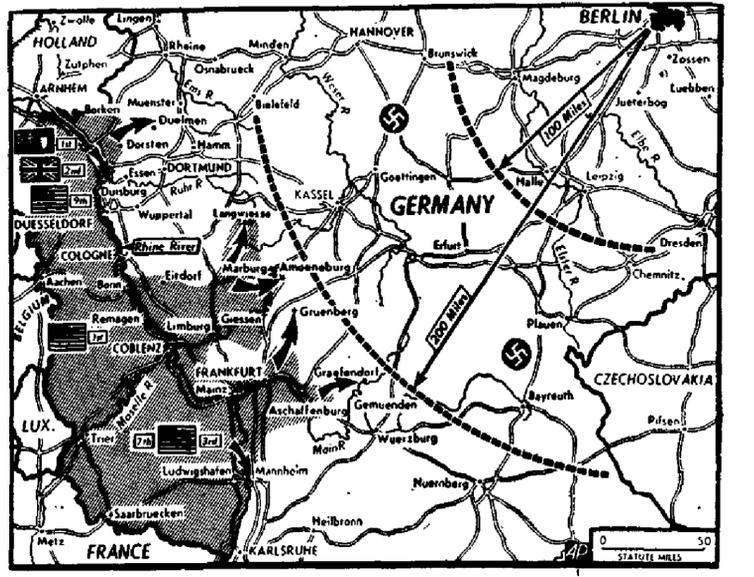
BY HAROLD W. WARD
Washington—(AP)—The war labor board today called deadlocked soft coal operators and miners to a hearing tomorrow morning to determine whether their contract can be extended until a new one is reached.
The present contract expires at midnight tomorrow and government seizure of the mines was seen possible if the operators and John L. Lewis fail to agree on a new pact or an extension of the present one.
The parties will be called on to show cause in accordance with the board's practice in such cases why the terms and conditions of the existing contract should not be extended, pending final action on the issues in dispute, and why an effective date for wage adjustments that may be finally determined upon should not be fixed.
WLB Chairman George W. Taylor telegraphed the operators and the miners. Reject Perkins Plan
The board acted within an hour after receiving formal certification of the dispute from Secretary of Labor Perkins, who announced last night that he was sending the dispute to the WLB after operators rejected her compromise plan.
United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis had agreed to Miss Perkins' proposal, which is understood to have eliminated his demand

Ruhr Cut Off as Allied Forces Continue to Gobble Up Germany

Nazis Place One Column 170 Miles from Berlin

BULLETIN
With the U. S. Third Army—(P)—The Sixth armored division stabbed to within 29 miles of Kassel today.

BY JAMES M. LONG
Paris—(AP)—The American First army, boldly cutting off the Ruhr, thrust powerful armored forces into Paderborn, 185 miles west of Berlin today and shoved on toward a junction with the 21st army group, racing on the open roads of northern Germany.
Front line dispatches said Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' Third armored division shoved into Paderborn at 9:35 a. m. today and kept going in the news blackout that obscured its further movements. The Brussels radio said Hodges' tanks were going so fast that detailed sectional maps were dropped to them by plane.
The sensational drive was meeting virtually no opposition and was less than 65 miles from a junction with Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's forces, whose exact whereabouts likewise were hidden.
Paderborn is on one of the main railways connecting the Ruhr with Berlin and is 25 miles south of Bielefeld, the only other major railway link between the industrial treasure chest and the German capital.
On the First army's right flank, the Germans reported the Fourth armored division which took Lauterbach had turned east and advanced upon Fulda, 13 miles distant.
The First army shot forward so fast its spearheads lost contact with headquarters. The Germans said one armored column had reached Bad Windungen, 20 miles southwest of the great rail center of Kassel, 170 miles from Berlin.
The Ninth army broke loose overnight in a race along the northern rim of the Ruhr, by-passing most of the great industrial cities of the valley.
The British Second army appeared to be veering northeastward toward the great ports of Hamburg, Bremen and Wilhelmshaven. The whole onsurge on the 21st army group front in the north was in high gear from the Muenster plain to the Odenwald. Infantry alone tramped 18 miles forward in a day, and tanks still were running unchecked along clear roads.
On every sector, supreme headquarters said officially that advances were going well.



FAST ACTION ON THE WESTERN FRONT—Shaded area indicates Allied-held territory in Germany with arrows locating Allied drives on the basis of reports sifting through heavy censorship. In the north, the Allies were in the Duellmen area and have taken Duisburg. In the center, U. S. troops reached Amöneburg and drove north to Langwiesche. Third army Yanks thrust up to Gruenberg. Other Third army troops were reported by the enemy near Oerndunden. Farther south Seventh army Yanks captured Mannheim.

American landing parties any time now.
(Berlin radio quoted Tokyo as saying 150 American Superfortresses attacked Tokyo this morning with a new type of incendiary bomb, starting numerous fires. The Berlin broadcast, not confirmed by Allied sources, was heard in London).
The British task force, which included the battleship King George V and the carrier Illustrious, operated as a unit attached to Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth U. S. fleet.
It became the first element of the royal navy to strike an offensive blow so close to Japan in this war.
See—PACIFIC—Page 7

Chile Paper Bares Plot To Destroy Panama Canal

Santiago, Chile—(AP)—The newspaper La Nacion, which has important contacts with the government, declared today that an attempt to destroy the Panama canal had been disclosed by the detention of a German saboteur chief named Von Appen.
The newspaper made the assertion in a story headlined, "Shipwrecks of the Sailing Vessel Lautaro and the Steamship Mopacho and Others Were the Work of Sabotage." It gave no specific details.
The naval training ship Lautaro,

a former German vessel, and the nitrate ship Mopacho recently were burned with the loss of perhaps 101 lives. The nitrate ship Naguiland caught fire at about the same time after loading at Iquique, a center of Japanese activities, and newspapers declared sabotage was responsible.
Jorge Garreton, director general of investigation, said "criminal hands" undoubtedly caused the fires. Several persons, including Germans, were arrested.
Fifty tons of saltpeter about to be transferred from a lighter to the Chilean freighter Camelo was virtually destroyed in another fire caused by an explosion at Tocopilla today.
The freighter's crew refused to sail after the mishap. Authorities are investigating.

Man Injured as Axe Gets Tangled With Clothesline

Wellington Walker, 36, 1740 Fifth street south, figured in a freak accident Wednesday evening which involved an axe and a clothesline. But it really isn't as funny as it sounds.
Walker was chopping wood in his yard and, before starting to swing at a large piece, motioned several young children to move back so they would not get hurt. He swung the double edged axe and somehow or other the blade came in contact with a clothesline which his wife had strung unbeknownst to him. Losing control of the implement, it struck him above the right eye, below the eye, through the lip and nose. He stated later that the blade fortunately had a dull scalloped edge. He was taken to Riverview hospital and released after receiving emergency treatment.

300 Lost in Sinking Of Aircraft Carrier

Alameda, Calif.—(AP)—More than 300 men were lost in the sinking of the escort carrier Bismarck Sea off Iwo Jima February 21, survivors who arrived here yesterday revealed.
There were 400 men in the group of survivors which arrived yesterday by transport ship.
They said that a third of the vessel's crew were drowned or shot by the Japanese pilots after the vessel had been struck twice and Capt. John L. Pratt had ordered everyone to abandon ship.

ZAGER SERVICES SUNDAY

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, for Albert Zager, 80, who died Thursday morning at his home in the town of Sigel. The Rev. W. Ave-Lallemand will officiate. Burial is to take place in Forest Hill cemetery.

Medic Injures Leg On Western Front

A letter from Sgt. John M. Casper to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Casper, Sr., 551 Eighth avenue south, informed them of a leg injury received while serving with a medical detachment in General Patton's Third army on the Western front.
Sergeant Casper, who served in Iceland, Ireland and England before crossing into Europe in the D-day invasion, is now in a Paris hospital, where he was taken by plane. He has been overseas nearly three years.

Memorial Services For Edmond Sternot

A memorial requiem high mass will be said by the Rev. Robert Oberwinder at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, April 4, at St. James Catholic church, vesper, for Staff Sgt. Edmond Sternot, 27, who was killed in action January 13 in Belgium.
Sergeant Sternot, son of Joseph Sternot of Flint, Mich., and grandson of Jacob Sternot of Vesper, was serving with the glider infantry and had been overseas since the fall of 1942.

Nekoosa Street Commissioner in Narrow Escape

Ed Gruber, 237 Wood avenue, Nekoosa, returned to his duties as street commissioner this morning after miraculously escaping death earlier this week when he came into contact with a 2,300-volt power line which broke during a high windstorm. The line had snapped in front of his home and he went to put it out of reach of some neighbor children who had gathered around.
Mr. Gruber took hold of the line where it was insulated but the wind whipped the end of it around and it came into momentary contact with his wrist, throwing him to the ground and rendering him unconscious. The wind also was credited with breaking the contact or death would have resulted. Mr. Gruber recovered quickly and notified officials to turn off the power. Although generally shaken up, a severe burn on the wrist was the only severe after-effect.

Youthful Bicyclist Is Injured Slightly

Stanley Honkamp, 14, 70 Love street, escaped serious injury about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon when he turned his bicycle into the path of a car driven by Paul Vandenberg, 911 Sixteenth street. Both were going east on Baker street when the youth suddenly turned his bicycle to cross the road into the path of the Vandenberg vehicle, according to Police Chief R. J. Exner. The youth received bruises on the left leg and the front wheel of the bicycle was damaged.

MRS. KNUTSON DIES

Mrs. Morris Knutson, 22, and infant daughter died at Riverview hospital at 11:15 this forenoon. Her home was in the town of Grand Rapids. The body is at the Krohn and Berard Funeral home.

Reds Over Austrian Border; 10,000 Nazis Taken at Danzig

2,300 PLANES HIT SEA PORTS

London—(AP)—More than 1,400 American heavy bombers and an escort of 900 fighters—the largest concentration sent out by the Eighth air force this year—attacked Germany's North sea ports of Bremen, Hamburg and Wilhelmshaven today.
The massive attacks were intended to cut off any seaborne supplies destined for the German armies in the north.
Bomber formations from Italian bases were reported over the Vienna area at midmorning.
Fast RAF Mosquito bombers struck RAVAG Berlin again last night. The Mosquitos, which laid two-ton blockbusters on Berlin, also attacked other undisclosed objectives in northwest Germany. From these raids and yesterday afternoon's heavy bomber attack on a benzol plant near Brunswick, one escorting fighter plane was missing, the air ministry said.

Terror Holds Reich in Line

London—(AP)—Nazi leaders appeared today to be resorting to a campaign of stark terror in an effort to hold the German people in line during the nation's greatest hours of peril.
The campaign seemed to be taking two forms. Nazi propagandists warned the Germans they would be no better than slaves if the allies are victorious, and at the same time they threatened with dire punishment all who failed to fight to the end or cooperated with allied authorities in occupied territory.
Despite this last ditch appeal to fear, reports from many sources indicated mounting chaos and despair within the beleaguered Reich. Stories relayed through neutral capitals told of disorders and mutinies, attempts on the lives of top nazis and large scale desertions from the army.
Nazi leaders themselves were reported putting the final touches on preparations for a planned withdrawal into the fastness of the Bavarian alps, and Swiss advices said some already had fled to the German island of Mainau in Lake Constance.

Plenty of Gas

With the U. S. First Army in Germany—(AP)—Allied commanders say they have no fear their drive through Germany will bog down from lack of fuel and supplies as it did at the Siegfried line after the great push across France and Belgium last fall.
Millions of gallons of gasoline are stored within a short distance of the front and huge stores of food and ammunition are available.

Easter Steeped in Tradition

When Easter morning rolls around, the day will be observed in Wisconsin Rapids in the traditional manner. Small youngsters will hunt for Easter eggs and some may even find a live bunny waiting for them. Churches will be filled and the altars banked with flowers. New clothes, well, anyway a new Easter bonnet—will make their appearance and if the day is sunny there will probably be an informal Easter parade in the afternoon.
Many of the observances of Easter have been handed down from centuries back but the majority of people do not realize why they follow certain customs on this day.
The Cross, the Resurrection scenes and the sacred Lily are all used to symbolize Easter messages and may be directly traced to their religious origin. The rabbit and the egg have become our two most imperishable Easter symbols because, to people of earlier times, they represented on earth the fertility and re-birth that Easter means spiritually.
Peacock Was Symbol
Other customs and signs of Easter have faded through the centuries, some of them to make brief returns or be revived in another form. The peacock was originally an Easter symbol, and one authority states that for five centuries this bird was the favorite symbol of immortality in the catacombs. Like most such borrowings from nature, the reasoning behind this adoption is logical. The peacock has an amazing longevity which bred an old belief that his flesh resisted decay; thus, immortality. It may even be that the idea of new clothes for Easter derives from the brilliant plumage of the peacock.



EASTER MONKEY BUSINESS—Most children find in their Easter basket a gaily colored assortment of eggs, but little Annette Avert, of Portage, Wis., got a big surprise when she found this pet monkey grinning at her.

General Motors Asked to Set Up Security Fund

Detroit—(AP)—Walter P. Reuther, vice-president of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), proposed today that General Motors corporation be asked to contribute an amount equal to 3 per cent of wages paid in plants where the union holds contracts, to be used to establish a social security department.
The corporation would be the sole contributor to the fund. Two per cent of the fund would be used for hospital, surgical and medical care, and one per cent to establish a UAW death benefit fund, out of which the beneficiary of any employee would receive \$1,500.
Participation in the plan would be contingent upon membership in good standing in the UAW-CIO.

Enemy Envoys Present At Good Friday Mass

Rome—(AP)—Traditional Good Friday mass was celebrated at the Sistine chapel today in the presence of Pope Pius XII, eight Cardinals and the diplomatic corps.
Diplomats present included Myron C. Taylor, President Roosevelt's Vatican representative; Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, German ambassador to the Holy See; and Ken Harada, Japanese special minister to the Vatican.

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