

"VERY STRONG U. S. FORCES" BOMB BERLIN

RUSSIANS ROUT HITLERITES IN UKRAINE DRIVE

BULLETIN London —(P)—The Russians tonight announced capture of Volochisk, cutting the Odessa-Lwow railroad, last important German line to southern Russia.

London —(P)—The red army swept close today to the vital Odessa-Lwow railway, main artery supplying the Germans in the Dnieper bend, in a powerful new western Ukraine drive which, Moscow announced, has routed 12 Nazi divisions and liberated more than 500 communities in two days.

A Soviet communique said the Russians were battling at the approaches to the station of Volochisk on the important line, 60 miles north of the Rumanian frontier. Seizing of the railway would force the Nazis to rely on poor roads and one-track railways over the Rumanian frontier, or on the sea, for supplies or retreat.

Vatutin Reported Ill Premier Marshal Joseph Stalin disclosed Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov was commanding the First Ukrainian army in the drive, replacing Gen. Nikolai K. Vatutin, who was reported ill.

Announcement said at least 6,000 Nazis already have been slain in the push, which cracked German defenses on a 112-mile front and surged forward up to 31 miles. Joining with previously won positions in old Poland, the new line gave the Russians a salient from Dembrovitsi in the north, southwest to Lutsk and then southeast to Belozerkia—a line about 165 miles long.

Admit Breakthroughs The German communique yesterday admitted breakthroughs and a Berlin broadcast said the Russians were attacking with at least 12 to 14 rifle divisions and three tank corps—more than 200,000 men.

The Soviet bulletin also announced that far to the north, where the red army has established a bridgehead across the Narva river in Estonia south of Narva, the Russians improved their positions. The communique made no mention of the fighting at Pskov, gateway to the Baltics, where the Russians last were reported five miles north and east of the rail hub.

Farm Loan Assn. Consolidation Is Effective April 1

Consolidation of farm loan associations designed to strengthen local units is being undertaken at this time, according to Bernard Boles, National Farm Loan association secretary-treasurer here. The lending bodies are agencies set up by Farm Credit administration, loaning federal and cooperative funds to member-borrowers. Loans are made only on farm real estate.

On April 1 Waushara county comes under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Rapids office of National Farm Loan, becoming the third countywide unit under jurisdiction of the local office. The others are the Wood county and Portage county associations. At the same time, the local office is divorcing itself from operations in seven other adjacent counties, with Clark county real estate going to the Greenwood office and Marathon county paper sent to the Wausau office.

The Waupaca office of National Farm Loan association is being discontinued April 1, when jurisdiction of Waushara county loans is transferred from Waupaca to Boles' office here. Oscar Olson, NFL secretary at Waupaca, will go to the Clintonville office, where Shawano, Outagamie and Waupaca county loans will be serviced. There is a general tendency in NFL to set up new association lines according to county boundaries, Boles says.

Thus in the past the Wisconsin Rapids office was center for five separate corporations,—for Pittsville, Marshfield, Portage county and two Wood county associations, and Mr. Boles was secretary-treasurer of all five associations. Beginning April 1 the office here will handle work of only three corporations, the new Waushara county NFL, Wood county's association, and a third association which is consolidation of much of the original five.

SMALL FIRE The fire department was called to the home of Ernest Smith, 830 Cliff street at 10:50 Saturday morning. Flare up from a gasoline range caused a small fire but no damage was reported.

LIBRARY CLOSURES The T.B. Scott public library will be closed from 9 to 11 o'clock Tuesday morning during the funeral of Mrs. William Sanford, mother of Librarian Jessie Sanford.

Yank Ground Forces in Action For First Time On Asiatic Continent

(By the Associated Press) Veteran American troops are fighting at the most advanced point in allied lines in Burma, Lieut. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell disclosed today simultaneously with reporting the biggest air victory for his China forces.

The first American ground forces to go into action as a unit on the Asiatic continent struck the Japanese nearly ten miles behind the front lines in Hukawng valley of northern Burma where United States engineers are building a new road to China.

Earlier Stilwell reported China-based Mitchell medium bombers destroyed 30 of 50 Japanese aircraft in a raid on Hainan island off China's south coast, and nine more at a northern Thailand airbase.

In the southwest Pacific, a last-ditch battle for Los Negros island in the Admiralty group is shaping up, with victory in store for the side that can rush in superior reinforcements.

And in the central Pacific, a start on the aerial campaign to reduce Japan's outer defense bases in the Caroline islands, using newly won airbases for land-based planes, is indicated by stepped-up American air activity.

Repulse Furious Attacks Furious Japanese attacks against the reinforced American lines around quickly-captured Momote airbase on Los Negros have been repulsed, but a spokesman for Gen. Douglas MacArthur said today there are signs of a heavy movement of enemy troops from Manus island, largest in the Admiralties, to Los Negros presaging larger scale battles.

A steady stream of American soldiers and supplies is reinforcing first cavalry division troops which raided Los Negros as a "reconnaissance in force" last Tuesday but whose operation suddenly was converted into a bid for complete occupation after an on-the-spot decision by MacArthur.

At least 3,000 Japanese have been killed or wounded since the landing, MacArthur said yesterday, including 700 killed in a wild attack Friday night. American losses are 61 dead and 244 wounded, he said.

5 Inch Snowfall Today; Cold Forecast

Accordian pleats were the pre-Easter style in fenders today, as a heavy wet snowfall which continued throughout the day made driving conditions difficult.

Farmers, however, cheered for the weatherman whose white blanket today relieves to some extent the extended winter drought which has injured grass seedlings and pasture lands.

Forecasters are for a sharp drop in temperature tonight to near-zero levels.

Snowfall, today up to 3:30 p.m. totaled five inches.

6 Persons Die When Army Bomber Crashes

Des Moines —(P)—Six persons were reported killed when an army bomber crashed in a field 40 miles northeast of here during a snow storm early today.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleat Donahon, of whom the plane fell, said it exploded in mid-air and crashed in flames. Bodies of six victims could be seen in the wreckage and there were no indications anyone escaped, they added.

VFW POST MEETS

John Buckley Post No. 2534, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will hold its annual election of officers when it meets at the Wood County Realty hall on Tuesday at 8 p.m. This will be obligation night for service men of World war two. All members should be present.

Lieut. Henry M. Ford Tells of Seabee Activity "Down Under"

(Editor's note: Following is an excerpt from a letter received by Charles Hagerstrom post No. 9, American Legion from Lieut. Henry M. Ford of the Seabees, stationed in Australia. The description of his activities there should be of interest to Tribune readers who may have relatives or friends stationed in that area.)

Legionnaires: "... Perhaps you would be interested in hearing what it is like out here. I'll tell you as much as I can without violating too many censorship regulations. I am stationed on the outskirts of one of Australia's largest cities. It is still a long way from the fighting front, but there is a great deal of military and naval activity around here. A great deal of equipment and supplies come here from the States



ESTONIANS EMERGE FROM HIDING—A Russian army officer talks to citizens of the Estonian Soviet Republic, who hid in the forest from the Germans, according to the caption accompanying this picture received by radio from Moscow.

Study Plan Which Would Erase Filing of Income Returns

Washington —(P)—The house ways and means committee held out hope today to some 30,000,000 income taxpayers that the returns they now are sweating over will be the last they ever will have to file.

Chairman Doughton (D-NC) announced the committee is studying a plan to erase the requirement of further returns, after 1944, from persons with income of \$5,000 or less.

"Special consideration was given today," he said after the committee finished a session behind closed doors, "to the possibility of arranging the withholding tax (against wages and salaries) so as to eliminate the requirement of taxpayers with income up to \$5,000 of having to file a regular income tax return, but allowing them the option of filing a simple statement or slip as to their income or the regular return.

"Such an arrangement as this probably would eliminate the necessity of filing about 30,000,000 regular income tax returns."

Doughton emphasized that no decisions had been reached.

Memorial Rites For Pfc. John C. Crabb

Milladore, Wis.—Memorial services for Pfc. John C. Crabb, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Crabb of Milladore, will be held Saturday, March 11, at 9:30 a. m. in St. Wenzel's Catholic church in Milladore, the Rev. Oscar Cramer officiating at a requiem high mass.

The American Legion post of Junction City will conduct a military service over the church.

Pfc. Crabb was reported killed in action January 30 in Italy. He was inducted on February 24, 1943, and went overseas on October 2, 1943.

Rosary will be said for the deceased Wednesday at 8 p. m. in St. Wenzel's church. Krohn and Berard are in charge of the memorial service arrangements.

Treasury Needs Help, Says Recruiter Here

Treasury department jobs for clerical workers, stenographers and typists, as well as operators for card punch business machines will be recruited today, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday by Miss Daisy Lubratovic, who will be stationed during the regular business hours in the office of the United States Employment service here.

Appointees will receive civil service ratings, and will be sent to fill jobs in treasury's Bureau of Public Debt in Chicago. The minimum qualifications are a two-year high school education, or equivalent business experience, Miss Lubratovic declared.

of which I am not at liberty to write about. That part of the battalion here carries on construction work for the navy and some for the army, all over this area. We also operate what might be termed an advance base depot, or a depot for advance bases. That means that we are continuously unloading and loading ships, for supplies and equipment to our own battalions and several other Seabee outfits too.

I am in charge of our headquarters company. That isn't a very exciting or exciting job right now, as things are running very smoothly. But I also have a lot of other miscellaneous duties, such as being battalion communications officer, which includes looking after the postoffice and also the censors. Then

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3 ARRESTED FOR BEAVER THEFTS

Vanver Dick, Route 3, was arrested Saturday by Conservation Warden Vince Skilling on a charge of unlawfully appropriating the contents of legally set beaver traps. The complaint was made by a trapper from whom a beaver was stolen.

Dick was arraigned Saturday before Justice Byron B. Conway and entered a plea of guilty. Sentence was postponed for 10 days; the defendant is leaving for military service.

Two more beaver thefts were reported today by warden Skilling, who arrested Adolph Triplat and Melvin Dinze, both of the town of Rock. Each pleaded guilty to the charge of "appropriating beaver from the legally set traps of another," and in Justice Conway's court here today each was assessed a fine of \$25 and costs, totaling \$32.07 apiece.

The thefts took place March 3 in the town of Cary, the warden said today as he issued a warning that anyone stealing beaver from traps will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, which provides maximum penalties of \$100 fine and 6 months imprisonment in addition to revocation of the hunting license of anyone found guilty.

Grand larceny charges may also be preferred against the person who steals beaver, Warden Skilling warned, since the value of the animal is usually above the lower limit set by the grand larceny statutes.

To illustrate the potential seriousness of the beaver theft problem, the conservation warden revealed that this year Wisconsin already has 1,434 beaver trappers in the field and applications are still rolling in at the conservation department's office in Madison. Last year 976 trappers took 5,500 beavers. Each trapper is issued 10 tags, limiting his catch to that number of animals. The expected 1,500 trappers this year are expected to trap 7,500 beavers, and with pelts running up to \$50 a hide that's a profitable fur crop.

2 More Sessions For Income Tax Help

Don't let the snow fool you into thinking that there's plenty of time left to file your income tax, warned L. E. Huth, deputy collector of internal revenue here in announcing two more "late nights"—Tuesday and Friday—for receiving income tax help at the revenue office in the basement of the postoffice building up until 9 p. m. Those who can do so are requested to come during the regular business hours, 8:30 to 5:30, leaving the evening free for those who cannot come at any other time.

No extension of time for the submission of returns can be granted by the local office, Mr. Huth warned today. Anyone who knows definitely that he will not be able to file his return by March 15 can apply for extension only by writing the Milwaukee office of the internal revenue bureau. Such extensions are granted only for good reason, and should be applied for immediately if needed.

INJURED BY TREE

Raymond Hofschild, 23, of Route 2, Wisconsin Rapids suffered a broken right leg and internal injuries Saturday when a tree fell on him while he was cutting wood. He was taken to Riverview hospital by ambulance at 3 p. m. and transferred to the Wisconsin General hospital later in the day.

ELKS TO HEAR SINGER At the regular meeting of the Elks' Supper club Tuesday at 6:30 p. m. Cpl. Al Coridon, stationed at the Tri-City airport, will entertain with several vocal selections.

Farm Workers Must Meet On Draft Status

More than 700 farmers and farm workers are expected to attend five meetings to be held at 8 p. m. tonight at various points in the county for the purpose of filling out "war board statement" questionnaires to be filed with the north and south Wood county selective service boards.

Those living near Wisconsin Rapids will attend a meeting in the normal school gymnasium here. Other meetings will be held simultaneously in the Arpin community hall, the Wood town hall, the Milladore town hall and the Marshfield city hall.

Notices have been mailed to those farm workers and their employes who are requested to appear tonight. Any draft-age farm workers who were not summoned to this meeting will be given an opportunity to attend later meetings which have been planned, Mr. Lathrop explained.

Order Inquest In Death Of Woman

Spencer, Wis.—(P)—Dr. A. W. Burek, Marathon county coroner, today ordered an inquest into the death of Mrs. Julia Huggins, 83-year-old widow, who was killed instantly late Saturday when she was struck by a southbound Soo Line freight train at a crossing in the village.

The body of the aged woman was picked up 53 feet from the crossing. Robert Plank, engineer, Wilford La Marche, fireman, and Arthur Held, head brakeman, all of Stevens Point, were in charge of the train.

NEW SHOE STAMP

The ration board announces that the new shoe stamp will be out May 1. Previous coupons and the airplane stamp in war ration book 2 will overlap the new stamp and will continue to be good indefinitely. Stamp 18 in book 1 terminates April 30. The OPA will designate the valid coupon before May 1 so that the public and shoe trade will be assured that a new stamp will be given on that date.

Down At Least 8

"So we went after them," recounted Lt. Col. George R. Bickell, of Nutley, N. J., who led the group. "I think we shot at least eight down. Without their doing much of anything to us."

He reported bad weather over most of the 1,200-mile round trip. "We made our rendezvous with the bombers on schedule," said Bickell, a diminutive, jaunty flier. "The flak was fairly heavy but we managed to dodge it. I got one Me-109 (on the outskirts of Berlin) on the way in."

"A Dornier 217 started at one of our Fortresses and I dived on him at about 23,000 feet. I blacked out going between 550 and 600 miles an hour. When I came out of the blackout I saw an Me-109 and shot him down. The pilot baled out."

That more than two-thirds of the quota must be reached in the balance of this week.

Germans Say One of Mightiest Air Battles Is Result

London —(P)— American heavy bombers in "very strong forces plowed through a great wall of anti-aircraft fire today and bombed Berlin for the second time in three days.

The returning fliers told of severe fighter opposition—and the German radio pictured one of the war's greatest air battles, raging over 30 miles from the Netherlands coast to Berlin.

One group of fighters said Berlin as a whole, despite the repeated bombings by the RAF which has made it the most-bombarded city in the world, looked "a long way from being flattened." And "when people say there's no more Luftwaffe you can tell them they're nuts," observed Sgt. Charles W. Perry of West New York, N. J., a waist gunner, describing fighter opposition.

"At least eight or 10 squadrons of the enemy came after our group," related Staff Sgt. Eldon Newman of Senath, Mo. "Our escort was swelled but they made a hell of a battle. Those P-51s took on the whole Luftwaffe."

The fliers said several fires were left burning in Berlin. There was no indication immediately how many American bombers flew to the German capital, but some of the Eighth airforce's recent operations have sent 1,000 bombers into the sky.

A German broadcast declared that "one of the greatest air battles of the war has been raging since 11:30 this morning over northwest and central Germany," extending from Züider Zee as far as the Heavel lakes near Berlin.

The radio said the air raid alarm sounded in Berlin just before 1 p. m. (7 a. m., CWT.)

The Americans took a direct course to Berlin, the German said, and "during their incursion were continually pressed by the strongest forces of German fighter and destroyer aircraft, and were forced to ever fresh evasive maneuvers by the fire of hundreds of anti-aircraft batteries."

"Had Expected Attack" "The attack had been expected by German anti-aircraft defenses after the first two American daylight thrusts had failed. The U.S. bombers flew in tight formations, protected on both sides by fighters and long-range fighters flying at higher altitude," the Berlin radio continued.

"The impression that the greatest possible fighter protection by U.S. army and RAF fighters was given in order to accomplish the thrust to Berlin this time was prevailing when the formations flew over the western frontier."

The Germans acknowledged that the bulk of the U.S. formations reached Berlin but said "the attack was not a real success," and that "enemy squadrons were driven off their course whenever they approached important industrial or communication centers."

The Germans also claimed that seven American pilots had been captured "in the vicinity of one command post."

Despite the Nazis' reports of the great battle they put up the first group of escorting Mustangs to come back reported encountering only about 50 German fighters—about one-twelfth the size of some forces the Germans have put up—and said the Germans refused to engage them.

Most of those aboard the ship were delightedly happy as she started her voyage at midnight last night, but for some—who have lived in Europe for many years and have family ties on this side of the Atlantic—it was a sad occasion.

Among these were several dozen American World war veterans, remnants of the 1917 AEF who remained in France after that conflict, married, raised families and were interned by the Germans when the present war broke out.

For them embarkation meant being torn from their wives and children and sent thousands of miles overseas. Many protested departure. Some asked Portuguese customs authorities if they could not remain in Portugal so that they could be nearer their families, but the Portuguese police quickly squelched this idea.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Moderate snow and blowing this afternoon, becoming flurries tonight and fair Tuesday. Much colder tonight and Tuesday.

Wind 25 to 35 mph this afternoon, diminishing late tonight and Tuesday. Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 24; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 27. Precipitation, .07.



CLEAR COLDER