

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Continued cool to-night and Thursday with temperatures tonight near freezing north and west central portions.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 49; minimum 30.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

Those Boys Need You
BUY WAR BONDS!

Thirty-First Year—No. 9766.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Wednesday, April 23, 1945.

Single Copy Five Cents

Four Youngsters Die as Result of Tragic Farm Fire

Kerosene Explodes When Poured into Coal Stove

Four children of the Edward J. Newman family died today as the result of a fire at their home on Route 5, Wisconsin Rapids. Three perished in the flames which engulfed a room in which they were playing after the fourth had poured kerosene into a coal stove, causing an explosion and flash fire.

The victims were Ronald, 5, Robert 3, David, 2, and Richard, 14, who was burned critically and succumbed about 1:30 this afternoon at Riverside hospital. Dr. Harold Pomajville, Wood county coroner, said the three tots probably suffocated although it was apparent from the way that two of the bodies were huddled in a corner that they had made a futile effort to escape.

Mrs. Newman made a heroic effort to rescue the youngsters but was driven back by the intense flames and was burned severely in her frantic attempts. Enveloped in flames, Richard stumbled from the room and his mother wrapped clothes around him which she had been washing. She then ran to a neighbor's home to summon help and Richard followed although his garments still were burning.

After running about 150 feet, Richard fell to the ground where his mother rolled him in the grass to put out the flames. The flames set fire to the grass and spread about fifteen feet from the place where Nekoska firemen found him when they answered the alarm.

Mrs. Newman returned to the scene and tried to enter the house but was forced back. She then went back to the neighbor's home and called her husband and an ambulance. The Newmans were hysterical and their grief was beyond control. They moved onto the farm early last fall.

Ernest Blackburn, who also lives on what is known as Roberts road, took Richard to the hospital. Sheriff Henry J. Becker visited the scene of the tragedy along with Dr. Pomajville. There is to be no inquest.

Youth Tells Story

Fire Chief James Misna said that the youth gasped out the story of the fire to him, saying that he poured kerosene from a 5-gallon can as he was preparing to build a fire and that "All of a sudden everything was on fire." He pleaded with the firemen to save the children but it is believed that they lived only a few minutes.

Mrs. Newman was working in the Nekoska-Edwards Paper company mill at Port Edwards and four other children also were away at the time. He was the father of three young-est children who died and Gwendolyn, 6, who was attending Ross school, Richard was the son of Mrs. Newman by a previous marriage and his sister, Gertrude, 16, is living in Auburndale. Two other children of Mrs. Newman's by a second marriage, Arlette, 10, and Ralph, 9, also were at school.

Firemen Act Promptly

The fire broke out about 9:40 this morning, the Nekoska fire department receiving the call from Mrs. William Yusten, to whose home Mrs. Newman had fled. Firemen were on the scene in less than 10 minutes and, although having only 80 gallons of water to draw from, extinguished the flames in about 12 minutes and succeeded in saving the home. The dining room in which the bodies lay, however, was a charred scene of horror.

Those who battled the flames besides Fire Chief Misna were I. Koller, assistant chief, John Buehler, George Wipfli, Ed Wipfli, Walter Wolfe, Charles Herrick and Al Ruder.

Krohn and Berard will have charge of funeral arrangements for the four victims.

Little hope had been given for Richard's recovery.

Allies Send Men Across Po Barrier

Rome—(AP)—Both the British Eighth and U. S. Fifth armies sent troops across the Po river today in pursuit of disorganized German forces reeling back toward Italy's northern border.

The crack 10th American mountain division won the first Allied foothold beyond the barrier stream Monday morning in the face of what a communique called a "remarkably fierce" concentration of enemy fire.

Eighth Spans River

Units of the Eighth army also spanned the stream to the east later.

Exactly where the Allied forces won the crossings was not disclosed as the Allied command clamped on a security blackout to keep as much information as possible from the enemy.

It was known, however, that the U. S. 10th division, racing forward 55 miles in two days, crossed the river at a point where it is about 200 yards wide with gradually sloping shores. The Germans, protected by earthworks, poured a hail of lead into the Allied assault boats, but the 10th quickly secured a bridgehead.

Mopped up Pockets

In the Po valley northwest of Bologna, other Fifth army elements mopped up extensive German units by-passed in the first advance, which overran Modena.

Everywhere along the long, twisting battle line, from Ferrara on the right flank to the port of La Spezia on the Ligurian coast, Allied troops were reported moving swiftly ahead through shattered enemy defenses. Ferrara fell yesterday to the Eighth army. The Fifth won La Spezia.

Up to noon yesterday, 40,000 prisoners were taken. The Fifth army accounted for 25,000.

Posthumous Award To Pfc. Ira Heinen

Milwaukee—(AP)—The Navy Cross, awarded posthumously to Marine Pfc. Ira E. Heinen, killed in action on Guam in July, 1944, was presented yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Heinen, Junction City.

Despite two bayonet wounds, Private Heinen refused relief and helped stop three fierce charges by the Japanese, his citation said. He died after his evacuation.

Water Committee To Meet Thursday

The sanitation and water supply committee of the city council will hold a meeting at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon in the city hall to discuss sewer petitions.

The general business committee will also hold a meeting at 5 o'clock Friday afternoon at the city hall to discuss the sale of a piece of land on Canal street to a private individual.

Hold Everything

"I wish Pop would let me quit school and get into something essential!"

Central Union to Elect Officers

Officers will be elected during an annual meeting of the Central Labor union at 7:30 Thursday evening in Union hall.

The following have been nominated:

Joseph C. Rude, president; Harry Klappa, vice president; Irvin Hofschild, recording secretary; Ardis A. Coombs, Arthur Mueller and Hilda Abraham, financial secretary; William Scott, treasurer; Carl Knuth, sergeant at arms; Edward Steuberg and Earl Wellener, trustee for three years.

Navy Seizes Strike Plants

Washington—(AP)—President Truman today ordered the navy to seize and operate the plants of the United Engineering Company, Ltd., at San Francisco where a jurisdictional dispute has tied up work on several ships.

The order directed the secretary of the navy to take possession of all, or such parts, as he deems necessary, of the main office and machine shops.

He also was authorized to take possession of such piers and other property as may be leased or otherwise contracted for in connection with the operation of the main office and machine shops.

Officials said that this was the first time that the government has taken over a war plant as a result of a labor jurisdictional dispute.

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CONFERENCE TO DRAW BLUEPRINT FOR LONG PEACE

San Francisco—(AP)—With one chair for Poland dramatically empty, 46 victorious nations of World War II assemble in their first historic political conference today to try to blueprint machinery for preventing World War III.

This is the day that millions of people over the earth have waited and worked for through the years of fighting to the verge of victory. It dawned bright with expressions of hope for lasting peace, yet darkened by one cloud—the Anglo-American dispute with Russia over Poland. Still Deadlocked

Barring some dramatic move by Premier Marshal Stalin of Russia, that dispute on Polish representation at the conference is as deadlocked today as ever—splitting the ranks of the Allied powers in the moment they strive for unity.

Otherwise there is evidence of close big-power cooperation which members of the American group interpret to mean that Russia is determined to help the conference succeed and is already making concessions for that purpose.

This conference city ably with activity. The American delegation scheduled a pre-conference caucus at 11:30 a. m. (central war time) with Secretary of State Stettinius.

VITAL FACTS

Opening session of United Nations conference on international organization.

PLACE: War memorial opera house, San Francisco.

TIME: 4:30 p. m., Pacific war time (6:30 p. m. central war time).

SPEAKERS: Secretary Stettinius, President Truman (by radio from Washington), Governor Earl Warren of California, Mayor Roger D. Lapham of San Francisco.

Russian members met with Foreign Commissar Molotov, who arrived Tuesday afternoon, and British delegates had a conference with Foreign Minister Anthony Eden.

There was some expectation that the big-three foreign ministers themselves would get together with China's T. V. Soong for a last minute review of arrangements prior to the brief conference opening at 6:30 p. m. (CWT).

Truman to Broadcast

Highlights of the scheduled half-hour program to be broadcast around the world is a speech by President Truman from Washington. Stettinius raps the session to order and delivers the initial address, introducing the American chief executive. After Mr. Truman the program calls for address by Governor Earl Warren of California and Mayor Roger D. Lapham of San Francisco.

The president began work on his address last night after talking for an hour with former Secretary of State Cordell Hull, whose hope to attend the opening here was vetoed by his physicians.

Stettinius holds the temporary chairmanship of the meeting in San Francisco's high-vaulted, red-and-gold opera house auditorium. He is

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Third Army Is Just 18 Miles From Austria

Paris—(AP)—A American Third army tanks clattered to within 18 miles of the Austrian border today in a dash that carried within 79 miles of Berchtesgaden, and within 105 miles of a junction with Russians to seal off Czechoslovakia in a new trap.

Two other armies—the U. S. Seventh and French First—were assaulting the Germans' long and craggy southern redoubt, and were punching ahead in a great maneuver to encircle Munich.

The Third army now was on the Danube.

Its 11th armored division stabbed 15 miles farther southeast in the corner of Germany, reaching near Halbach, 16 miles from Austria, and 79 miles north and slightly east of Berchtesgaden, where the Nazi leader's Alpine refuge smoked from a heavy bombing attack.

Lines are Bombed

The 11th armored approaching Austria was but 105 miles—and possibly less—from two Russian columns striking across Austria. The Austrian communications hub of Linz, also bombed today, was about midway between the outstretching Russian-American arms. The 11th stood 49 miles northwest of Linz.

Bohemia and Moravia were rapidly being sliced off to form a huge German pocket between the Berlin cauldron and the Nazi Alpine fortress.

British in the north stormed Bremen while armies in the center

See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

Yanks Menace Nippon Flank On Okinawa

Guam—(AP)—U. S. Seventh division infantrymen, seizing high ground near the village of Ishin, today threatened the eastern flank of the strongly-fortified Japanese defense wall on southern Okinawa.

Capture of the elevation was the first marked change in the fiery front since the beginning of the all-out attack last Thursday, when three divisions of Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge's 24th army corps gained up to 800 yards.

Since then the fighting has been a slow, bloody and methodical job of digging the Japanese from caves, blockhouses and pillboxes in their elaborate interlocking defense belt which extends four miles south to the capital city of Naha.

Marines of Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger's Third amphibious corps, who overran the northern three-fourths of Okinawa with little opposition, landed yesterday on three more offshore islands, Yagachi, Heanza and Kouri, virtually completing the American cleanup of islets around Okinawa.

Only on Yagachi was any opposition encountered. This was feeble and quickly dissipated.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz' communique today reported continued heavy fighting along the entire front. Big guns of battleships, cruisers and destroyers poured hundreds of tons of shells into the enemy defenses, sealing off caves and destroying emplacements.

Nimitz, after a personal inspection of the island, said the enemy's defenses on southern Okinawa, where the bulk of the Nipponese garrison of 60,000 or more has concentrated, appeared to be "as strong, or perhaps stronger, than any we have tackled before."

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Snyder Confirmed

Washington—(AP)—John W. Snyder, St. Louis banker, was confirmed by the senate today as federal loan administrator.

Complete Encirclement of Berlin Is Announced by Premier Stalin

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See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

Cell Prepared for Return of Petain, Former French Idol

Paris—(AP)—A cell in an unnamed fortress near Paris was prepared today for Marshal Petain, former idol of France, as a precaution against disorders when the aged hero of Verdun is returned here to stand trial on charges of high treason.

Justice Minister Francois De Menthon said Petain has not yet entered France, denying a French press agency report that the marshal and his party crossed the Swiss frontier near Geneva this morning.

An almost complete news blackout has been thrown over details of the marshal's return in official French circles.

Upon arrival, however, Petain will be held under heavy guard at the fortress in the Paris suburbs. Like any other man accused of a major crime in France he will be denied any visitors except defense counsel.

There was every indication that France already had been torn apart by the dramatic arrival at the Swiss frontier yesterday of the aged marshal and his announced intention of returning to France to stand trial.

In the provinces there are countless thousands of persons who still idolize Petain and for whom even today his vast prestige remains undimmed by the events during the German occupation of France.

With almost unanimous voice

See—PETAIN—Page 7

Nepco Blood Donors Go to Milwaukee

Nepco men will go to the Milwaukee blood donor center Thursday on a bus sponsored by the Nekoska-Edwards Paper company.

Wisconsin Rapids men are asked to be at the Wood County Bank corner at 7:30, Port Edwards men at the Nepco main office at 7:45 and Nekoska men at the Nekoska Bank corner at 8 o'clock.

Purple Heart Goes To Nekoska Mother

Mrs. Mamma Sorenson, mother of Pfc. Ole Sorenson, has received the Purple Heart which was awarded to her son for wounds received in Germany March 14.

Private Sorenson is now recuperating from those wounds in a hospital in England.



ALLIED GAINS AS FRONTS CLOSE IN—Americans have crossed the Mulde river at Eilenburg and an unconfirmed French press report said the eastern and western fronts have joined near there. In the south Americans took Cham, fought near Regensburg, took Ulm, won another Danube crossing at Ebingen as French reached Ochsenhausen. On the eastern front Russians fought in Berlin, along the Elbe and were reported by Germans to have reached Eisenzer in Austria. In Italy the Allies were at the Po river.

Alpine Lair Of Hitler Is Blasted

London—(AP)—RAF Lancasters blew to pieces Hitler's chalet at Berchtesgaden today with a direct hit by a 12,000-pound earthquake bomb and rained the mammoth bombs down on his "eagle's nest" fortress atop Kehlstein mountain five miles from the chalet.

The raid on the Alpine lair possibly was an attempt on the Fuehrer's life, and even heavier bombs may have been dropped.

Six-ton "earthquake" bombs—the type that drilled the thick hide of the Tiroitz and plunged through 20-foot-thick concrete U-boat shelters—were dropped in the area where Hitler's underground fortress is believed located.

Probably 200 of Britain's biggest planes staged this first direct attack on Hitler's Berchtesgaden properties and an air ministry announcement that other high explosive and deep penetration bombs were used indicated that possibly the 22,000-pound monster bombs capable of making a 150-foot crater also were dropped.

Hitler's Chalet Is Target

Targets were Hitler's chalet near Berchtesgaden itself, SS barracks on the grounds reputedly garrisoning 10,000 picked troops, and the mountain refuge perched atop Kehlstein mountain five miles from the chalet.

The Kehlstein "castle," reachable only by a serpentine road and elevators inside a mountain shaft, is believed to have a vast underground fortress of air-conditioned corridors and huge supplies.

Whether Hitler was there at the time was not known.

The attacks were carried out between 9 a. m. and 10 a. m. by two separate forces by heavy Lancasters

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MOUNTAIN TIME NEAR PASSAGE

Madison, Wis.—(AP)—After a lengthy debate, the state senate today advanced to within a step of passage the measure which would put Wisconsin on mountain time, an hour later than the present war time. The vote was 17 to 16.

The assembly today passed 78-7 a bill to provide that any school consolidation order of the state superintendent of schools would be subject to review upon appeal by a three-man board appointed by the county judge of the affected district.

Originally, the measure had provided for appeal in the cases of suspended districts with less than \$100,000 valuation, but an amendment by Assemblyman Wheelock (R-Vernon) lifted the valuation ceiling.

The house concurred in a senate bill decreasing the annual state council of defense appropriation from \$50,000 to \$10,000 and providing that its functions should be discharged only upon order of the governor and that the appropriation should revert to the adjutant general when he executes council duties.

An attempt by Assemblyman Nuss (R-Fond du Lac) to place the bill allowing introduction of natural gas into Wisconsin on the calendar for tomorrow failed, and the measure was put on the calendar of May 2. A companion appropriation bill was referred to the joint finance committee.

British Enter Burma Oil Field, 2 Towns Fall

Calcutta—(AP)—Swift British penetration of the rich Burma oil field area has toppled the important Irrawaddy river towns of Yenang-ung and Maegu, 60 and 80 miles south of Pakokku, a Southeast Asia command communique reported today.

British and Indian infantry and tanks inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, the communique said.

British 14th army forces continued to make good progress south of captured Pyin Oaung, 207 miles north of the port city of Rangoon.

S. O. S.

Monroe, Wis.—(AP)—A traveling man making a two-weeks stay in Monroe purchased some limburger cheese to eat in his room.

When he was ready to leave he still had half of the cheese. Not wanting to pack it, he went to the window sill, carefully removed a plant from its pot, buried the cheese and replaced the plant.

A few days later he received the following telegram from the hotel: "We give up. Where did you put it?"

BARCOCK WOMAN DIES

Mrs. Martin Damm, 81, died Tuesday evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Sanger, near Babcock. The body has been brought to the Krohn and Berard funeral home.



RUSSIANS IN BERLIN—Transmitted from Moscow to New York by Sovfoto, official photographic agency for the Soviet government, this radiophoto is purported to show Russian tanks, carrying infantrymen, fighting their way through the bomb and shell-blasted streets of Berlin. Moscow reports Russian troops hold nearly one-half of Berlin and have the German capital almost encircled.