

FIRST DRIVES THROUGH SIEGFRIED

Gerald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

PRICE FIVE CENTS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1945

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Weather News

February 8, 1945	
Max. (Feb. 7)	51 Min. 37
Precipitation last 24 hours	0.58
Stream year to date	5.55
Normal	6.99 Last year 4.57
Forecast: Mild with showers.	

SCHMIDT WON; YANKS NEAR VITAL DAMS

Germans Say Yanks Preparing New Attacks

By JAMES M. LONG
 PARIS, Feb. 8 (AP)—The American first army drove clear through the last barriers of the double Siegfried line 15 miles southeast of Aachen today, captured bloody Schmidt and neared the Roer river dams and reservoirs which had been a major factor in checkmating the western front offensive last November.

The German communique said "preparations for the big allied attack continue along the Roer." The enemy said a major offensive was imminent with Cologne, the Rhine and Industrial Ruhr as objectives. American troops outside Duren are 20 miles from Cologne. Capture of the dams might prove the starting signal for the onslaught.

Approach Pruem
 Farther south in the 70-mile active front, the third army poured through a seven-mile breach in the Siegfried line to within a mile and a quarter of the fortress and communications hub of Pruem, 53 miles southwest of the large Rhine city of Coblenz.

The attack at Schmidt and Pruem appeared to be the beginning (Continued on Page Two)

Pioneer Passes



Charles R. DeLap, 88, former county clerk and school superintendent, who died in Portland today.

PIONEER C. R. DELAP DIES AT PORTLAND

Charles R. DeLap, 88, Klamath county pioneer, long-time educator and public official, and patriarch of a well known Klamath family, passed away in Portland Thursday after a lingering illness.

Mr. DeLap was moved to a hospital in Portland some months ago. He frequently expressed the hope he would live to see his 88th birthday and passed that milestone on January 17.

Funeral arrangements, which await word from distant relatives (Continued on Page Two)

Big Three Confab May Mark New Era In Foreign Policy

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (AP)—Big Three plans for joint political action in Europe are expected here within the week.

Calling for active American participation in European settlements, they will mark the beginning of a new period in United States foreign policy.

The plans are being worked out by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin at an historical conference now believed to be at least half-finished somewhere in the Black sea area.

The meeting is on Russian soil in order to allow Stalin to continue his close supervision of the red army invasion of Germany.

A joint announcement late yesterday, evidently direct from the conference, was released in London and Moscow as well as at the White House. This finally put the open

ODER PIERCED BY ADVANCING SOVIET UNITS

LONDON, Feb. 8 (AP)—The Moscow radio said today the "Oder line has been pierced and Berlin in panic is witnessing the crumbling of the last obstacle in its forefend."

A prior broadcast by an American commentator said Marshal Stalin's capital was hourly expecting an official announcement that the first White Russian army had smashed across the river in force, "signifying the complete breakdown of the Oder line."

Berlin accounts said the Russians had hammered out seven (Continued on Page Two)

PASIG RIVER FRONT LINE OF FIGHTING

By FRED HAMPSON
 MANILA, Feb. 8 (AP)—The broad Pasig river, its bridges blown up by a desperate foe, was the front line today in the heart of Manila—a heart torn by sporadic house-to-house fighting, exploding shells and great fires set by Japanese suicide squads.

The sprawled and blackened bodies of slain Japanese, among 48,000 enemy casualties so far accounted for on Luzon, dotted scenes of wanton destruction in the liberated sector north of the (Continued on Page Two)

WIND VELOCITY DROPS ON COAST

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 8 (AP)—Gale winds which roared to 80 miles an hour along the coast yesterday subsided this morning, and the weather bureau said the windstorm was apparently over.

At Astoria, where power and communication lines were ripped out by heavy winds, the velocity dropped to 20 miles an hour. Hoquiam, Wash., recorded a 23-mile wind velocity. More southern coastal points were even lower.

Telephone repair crews, working throughout most of the night, restored communications along the coast.

The weather bureau predicted continued rain, but storm warnings on the Oregon and Washington coast were lifted this morning.

The city of Astoria was back to normal. Despite heavy seas, no fishing craft sent distress signals. The Wilson river highway to the coastal town of Tillamook was closed, however, by a log jam that had weakened a bridge. One-way traffic moved slowly over stretches of the Wolf creek and Yamhill-Newberg roads because of a landslide and high water.

Leathernecks Snare Crocodile



This fellow will make a fine pair of shoes, according to 2nd Lt. Norman R. Peters of Klamath Falls, (right), who with Major William A. Swinerton of Redwood City, Calif., bagged this 6 1/2-foot, 72-pound crocodile when stationed with a marine outfit in the Solomons.—Official marine corps photo.

Marine From Klamath Makes Shoes for Wife From Croc

By SGT. VIC KALMAN
 Marine Corps Combat Correspondent
 SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, (Delayed)—Marine 2nd Lt. Norman R. Peters, 28, Klamath Falls, Ore., is making a pair of shoes from a crocodile skin to send to his wife back home. Just before Christmas, Lt.

Peters and Major William A. Swinerton, Redwood City, Calif., went crocodile hunting with carbines.

Peters flushed the croc out of a cavity in the coral reef which jutted out into the sea, and the major shot it. The croc proved to be six and one-half feet long, and weighed 72 pounds.

Wants More
 "If I can get a good pair of shoes out of it," Peters said, "I'm going after some more."

Lt. Peters, whose wife, the former Destie Kleineger, and their 2-year-old son, Francis, reside at 1735 Crescent, Klamath Falls, is the same Peters who starred at end in the 1942 Rose Bowl football game. His playing helped Oregon State upset Duke with a 21-16 score.

Skin on Way
 Mrs. Peters said Thursday that she had not received the crocodile skin but that in a recent letter from her husband he advised her that the skin, two Jap rifles and a Jap parachute were en route to Klamath Falls. Lt. Peters is somewhere in the Solomons.

A package of flower and vegetable seeds were sent Lt. Peters by his wife a short time ago and the marine officer wrote home that it took the tomato seeds just two days to come up. The remainder of the garden looked equally as promising, Lt. Peters said.

MARSHALL, KING FAILURES CHARGED

By FRANCIS J. KELLY
 WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (AP)—Senator Brooks (R-Ill.) contended today that Gen. George C. Marshall and Admiral Ernest J. King had failed to use military manpower to the best advantage. He also charged them with responsibility "for a vast overproduction of billions of dollars worth of surplus goods."

The Illinois republican took the senate floor to criticize (Continued on Page Two)

Paul Surprenant Reported Missing

Mr. and Mrs. George Surprenant of 2235 Orchard, received word from the war department on Wednesday that their son, S/Sgt. Paul D. Surprenant has been reported missing over Yugoslavia since January 21.

The 22-year-old youth was a waist gunner on a B-17, Flying Fortress. He joined the army on June 15, 1943, and received his gunner's wings at Kingman, Arizona in January of 1944. Surprenant is also a graduate of the armament school at Lowry Field, Colorado, and has been overseas since November.

He is a graduate of Klamath Union high school, and was later employed by Lockheed-Vega aircraft in Los Angeles.

Paratroops May Leap-Frog Rhine to Gain Bridgeheads

By EDWARD H. HIGGS
 WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (AP)—A plan that Lt. Gen. Lewis Brereton's allied airborne troops may soon be called upon to leap-frog the Rhine depends today on allied ground forces drove closer to the river in the Cologne sector.

The task of establishing bridgeheads across this mighty barrier, preparatory to a sweep into the heart of Germany, will be one of the greatest confronting allied commanders as their troops crashed through the Siegfried line on a broad front.

In the opinion of military planners, would be to throw the American-British-Polish air forces over the river to seize bridgeheads for infantry and armor.

It is considered unlikely, however, that the signal for the take-off of the paratroops will be

ITALIAN OFFENSE STALLED BY NAZIS

By NOLAN NORGAARD
 ROME, Feb. 8 (AP)—The limited offensive of American fifth army troops in the mountains southeast of Bologna was stalled today against strongly fortified and heavily defended enemy positions, the allied high command announced.

The doughboys were halted after forcing their way forward up to 600 yards in two days of bitter fighting in weather conditions made difficult by a sudden thaw in the Apennines mountains.

Gain Crest
 Attacking troops gained the crest of one ridge but were forced to dig in and were engaged against counterattacking Nazi troops yesterday.

German resistance to the attack, which opened Monday, was prompt and vigorous and included artillery support.

Loss, Regain Ground
 Enemy resistance stiffened all so in the Serchio valley, where (Continued on Page Two)

Tule Lake Land Scheduled For Postwar Availability

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (AP)—An area of 7500 acres or more will be made available for settlement in the Tule lake division of the Klamath reclamation project of Oregon and California under postwar plans of the reclamation bureau, Commissioner Harry W. Bashore said today.

"No land, however, is open for entry on the Klamath project at the present time," the announcement said, adding that under public notices issued between 1922 and 1937 about 25,600 acres were settled.

Public Lands
 All lands in the Tule lake division are public lands. Bashore said that upon completion of irrigation works 33,000 acres in the region would ultimately be reclaimed for farming.

Bashore said that approximately 12,500 acres in the Modoc unit of the Tule lake division of the Klamath project is "being prepared to serve war food needs."

A \$88,163 contract recently was awarded George H. Stacey of Parker, Ariz., for construction of earthwork and structures and the Klamath straits drain outlet. Previously Clifford A. Dunn of Klamath Falls, Ore., was given a contract for building three pumping plants in Siskiyou and Modoc counties, California.

Part of Division
 Bashore explained that the Modoc unit is part of the Tule lake division. A 7000-foot tunnel

Slot Machines? We Need 'Em, Says Lieuallen

SALEM, Feb. 8 (AP)—Rep. C. L. "Buck" Lieuallen, Pendleton, rose today to the defense of the gambling habits of Umatilla county citizens after Rep. Joseph E. Harvey, Portland, foe of slot machines, cited state tax commission records showing there are 83 slot machines operating in that county.

Harvey opposed a bill to extend for two years the salary increases for the Umatilla sheriff and other county officers.

"We're a little different from Portland," Lieuallen told the house. "We're wheat ranchers and cattlemen. When the ranchers plant the wheat, the odds are about 75 to 1 that they won't get any rain, and about 90 to 1 that they won't get any crop if they do get rain, and about 10 to 1 they won't get any price."

"The cattlemen face odds of 50 to 1 that they won't have enough hay through the winter, and then in the spring they turn the cattle loose up in hills so steep and close together that a dog has to wag his tail up and down to get through the canyons."

"So you see our people couldn't get any fun out of ordinary odds. They've got to play slot machines, where they can't win."

The bill passed easily and went to the senate.

Weber's Sentence Changed To Imprisonment for Life

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif., Feb. 8 (AP)—Pvt. Henry Weber was out of the shadow of the gallows today, his death sentence changed to life imprisonment, his wife continuing her fight for him.

The 27-year-old soldier, a shipyard worker at Vancouver, Wash., before being drafted, was sentenced by court-martial to hang for refusing to drill. His case attracted nationwide attention.

Revoke Sentence
 Yesterday, by direction of the commanding general of the camp, the court-martial reconvened, revoked the death sentence, sentenced Weber to life imprisonment at hard labor,

Death Sentence For Weber Commuted

In Portland, Oregon, his wife conferred with an American Civil Liberties official. She declared life imprisonment for her husband is "still outrageous."

"I am more determined than ever," she said, "in fighting for justice for my husband." She said her understanding of conscientious objector is that it can refer to "any person whose deep personal convictions, either religious or political, are opposed to taking human life."

"Other patriotic Americans are still in uniform and not bearing arms. Henry has insisted (Continued on Page Eight)



Pvt. Henry Weber (left), 27, former Vancouver shipyard foreman and logger was sentenced to death at a Camp Roberts, Calif., court martial for refusal to obey order of his commanding officer to drill. The sentence was changed to life imprisonment at hard labor Wednesday when the court martial reconvened. His wife and 4-year-old son, Wayne, are pictured in their Vancouver home. Mrs. Weber plans to continue to fight for justice for her husband, declaring that the sentence is "still outrageous."

3 SCHOOLS REPORT VALENTINE CHOICES

Interest was keen in the Valentine's Day sweetheart contest in the city schools, and Joseph Conger was first to report the selection of room candidates today. Second school announcing sweethearts was Riverside, and the third to come in was Pelican.

All three candidates in the first grades of Conger, Riverside and Pelican are named Bonnie! Other schools were to name their candidates and the final choice this week. Following are the selections thus far:

Joseph Conger: first grade, Bonnie Karnes, 6, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Karnes, 2420 Oregon; second, Claudia Nelson, 7, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claud J. Nelson, 209 Cook; third, Delores McFarland, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loyd McFarland, 239 Nevada; fourth, Bonita Huddart, 8, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Huddart, 1835 Siskiyou; fifth and sixth grades, combined, Carol Lee (Continued on Page Two)

Pack Train Out On Plane Search

GRANTS PASS, Feb. 8 (AP)—H. C. Obye, Siskiyou forest supervisor, said here today a pack train left from Gold Beach this morning under Forest Ranger Marion Nance in an attempt to reach the navy PBV plane which was reported yesterday to have crashed in the Chetco peak area with eight on board.

Obye said it is not yet definitely known that all in the plane perished.

Delay in starting the pack train, he said, was due to the difficulty in obtaining pack animals at this time of year. He said it would take a day and a half to reach the spot.

Japs Demand War Production Army

By The Associated Press
 Tokyo radio said today that more than 250 influential members of the house of representatives, concerned over "the critical war situation," have demanded that Premier Kuniaki Koiso convene a special session of the diet to create "a production army."

The broadcast of a report by Domei news agency was recorded by the federal communications commission.