

WANKS CROSS RHINE

Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1945

Weather News

March 8, 1945

Max. (March 7)	42	Min.	34
Precipitation for last 24 hours	.11		
Stream year to date	7.25		
Normal	8.35	Last year	5.90

Forecast: Clear tonight and Friday.

Firm Hold Secured by First Army

PARIS, March 8 (AP)—The American first army crossed the Rhine south of Cologne last night and secured a firm footing today on the east bank of the great German barrier stream.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges poured more and more infantrymen across the river after his sudden and sensational crossing in darkness. The exact location of the bridgehead over the quarter-mile-wide river was shrouded by military censorship because the Germans obviously did not know the exact situation.

The crossing started at 4:30 p. m. yesterday. In the hours since then, a steady stream of men and material have been pouring onto the eastern bank and moving forward in a drive to get the beachhead out of range of enemy artillery.

(Cologne is in about the same latitude as Newfoundland, and the days at this season are extremely short).

During the first 24 hours, there was little artillery or mortar fire on the beachhead, indicating the enemy was in confusion when he fled back across the river from the ashes of Cologne before Hodges' hard-driving divisions.

Gen. Eisenhower was known from the start of the current campaign to want a bridgehead across the Rhine as quickly as possible, because he felt that a crossing would shorten the war in Europe by weeks.

The swift crossing gave the Germans no time to reorganize or improve defenses east of the Rhine, far beyond the shattered debris of the Siegfried line. It constituted Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's greatest defeat since the landings in Normandy.

Strangely, the Germans who customarily have announced transcendent military developments before either the western or eastern allies, still were silent about the Rhine crossing.

The fact that supreme headquarters used the word "bridgehead" in announcing the crossing indicated that Hodges' infantry had secured a good, solid grip. In military parlance, a bridgehead is established only after it has been expanded sufficiently for the crossing to be out of direct short range fire.

The Rhine crossing was the first by any army fighting its way eastward since the days of Napoleon.

The surge from the Roer river which started February 23 had developed such momentum that the Germans along a 200-mile front from Holland to the Moselle either were routed, in confusion, or fighting for their very lives.

The Rhine crossing apparently was an amphibious operation—second only to the crossing of the channel. All five Rhine bridges were down in Cologne itself.

Wide River

The grey-green Rhine is 1300 to 1700 feet wide at Cologne and 1320 wide at Bonn and never narrower between the cities.

The Canadians on the flooded lower Rhine were known to be using Alligators, Ducks and Buffaloes—water-going tanks (Continued on Page Thirteen)

Russians Hit 25 Miles From Nazi Capital

LONDON, March 8 (AP)—The Russians have driven to within 25 miles of Berlin's city limits, outflanking the fortress of Kuestrin and reaching Seelow on the west side of the Oder, a Transocean broadcast from the German capital said today.

Seelow is directly east of Berlin and is 12 miles west of the Oder. It is on the main railway skirting the Oder which connects Stettin and Frankfurt.

Marshal Gregory Zhukov's massive new offensive, timed with the allied drive to the Rhine, 321 miles to the west, also has reached a point 29 miles from Berlin northwest of Kuestrin, Berlin reported.

Transocean said Seelow was reached from the Russian bridgehead at Goerlitz, between Kuestrin and Frankfurt, and said terrific fighting was taking place in the area, with many places changing hands repeatedly.

Eighty miles west of Danzig near the Baltic coast, the Russians captured the railway center of Schlawa, a town of 8000, the Germans said. Schlawa is 22 miles northeast of Koesslin.

Moscow maintained silence on these sectors.

However, Marshal Stalin announced in an order of the day the capture of the Polish town of Koscielzyna, 29 miles southwest of Danzig, and the Pomeranian rail junction of Butow, 20 miles west of Koscielzyna. (Continued on Page Thirteen)

A Chicken For Every Pot!



These day-old chicks were hatched at the Oregon State Hatchery which was opened here just six weeks ago. They are waiting to be shipped to distant points. (See story on page 3).

MARINES PUSH JAPS FURTHER BACK ON IWO

By MORRIE LANDSBERG

ABOARD ADM. TURNER'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE FLAGSHIP OFF IWO JIMA, March 8 (AP) (Via Navy Radio)—Marine infantrymen compressed Japanese into a narrow crescent on northern Iwo today in the final stages of the long, bloody campaign to conquer this air stepping-stone to Tokyo.

Softened up by the shattering artillery bombardment the day before, enemy troops yielded on all fronts yesterday. In the northern central sector the Japanese were forced to withdraw into their caves at times as they sought to throw back the oncoming third division in hand to hand combat.

Salvage Charge

A Yank tank battalion reported Japanese made a suicidal charge on armored vehicles operating with the third division, attacking suddenly with explosive charges mounted on the ends of long poles. Tankmen said it failed completely.

No tanks were damaged, they reported, and "a considerable number" of Japanese were killed.

Split Leans

The three leatherneck divisions threatened to split the remaining enemy force of several thousand men by a coordinated drive in an effort to bring the 18-day operation to a successful conclusion.

The fifth division, on the northwest side of the island, advanced. (Continued on Page Thirteen)

BANG'S DISEASE LOW IN BASIN AREA

Recent tests indicate that Bang's disease, cause of undulant fever, affects less than one per cent of the dairy cows on the Klamath Falls milkshed, it was stated by Dr. J. C. Hunt, city milk and meat inspector, in an address before the Kiwanis club Thursday noon.

Dr. Hunt described the determined effort made here several years ago to eliminate Bang's disease, and said there was a heavy slaughter of reactors at that time. Since then, tests have shown the area to be safely free from the disease.

Few Such Records

Dr. Hunt also said that few if any similar cities in the northwest could claim such a high percentage of milk pasteurization as Klamath Falls. All milk sold here except about 20 gallons a day is pasteurized. Pasteurization is complete for milk used in ice cream, cottage cheese and butter, he said.

The speaker praised the local dairies and creameries for their cooperation in helping raise milk standards here, as well as the farm dairymen.

Long Fight

E. B. Hall, chairman of the city health board, told of the long fight to improve both milk and meat inspection here and praised Dr. Hunt for his work, which covers food products sold (Continued on Page Thirteen)

Southern Shores of Luzon Reached by American Units

By RICHARD C. BERGHOLZ

MANILA, March 8 (AP)—U. S. troops were on the southern shores of Luzon for the first time today as other Yanks, east of Manila, inched forward against Japanese positions softened by the heaviest air strikes thus far used in support of ground action in the southwest Pacific.

While American bombers sweeping China sea shipping sank or damaged two warships and 16 freighters, 11th airborne divisions and 158th infantry units penetrated to the south coast of Luzon Tuesday to capture Balayan and Calatagan at Balayan bay.

They met only scattered resistance.

Balayan bay, in Batangas province, is on the important Verde island passage between Luzon and American-held Mindoro island. It is about 50 miles south of Manila. A good road skirts most of the bay coast.

In the bitterly-contested Markina watershed area east of Manila, heavy bombers, attack planes and dive bombers dropped more than 900 tons of explosives on the elaborate Japanese entrenchments which have held the Yanks virtually stalemated for weeks.

Record Support

This was a mightier assault in support of ground operations than that given the 503rd paratroopers on Corregidor or any other major objective from the Philippines to New Guinea. Bombers of all sizes made more than 75 sorties.

Despite this record pounding the first cavalry division under Maj. Gen. Verne D. Mudge and the sixth infantry division of Maj. Gen. Edwin D. Patrick found the going tough along this mountainous Shimbu line between Antipolo and Wawa.

BRITISH TROOPS ENTER MANDALAY

By JOHN GROVER

CALCUTTA, March 8 (AP)—Spearheads of the British 19th division plunged into the northern suburbs of Mandalay today, and in their 14-mile dash southward from Madaya to Mandalay, Indian troops of the British division bypassed a considerable number of Japanese. These enemy groups appear dazed and bewildered and are scheduled for later elimination.

Chinese troops 130 miles northeast of Mandalay smashed two miles through Japanese defenses and occupied New Lashio and its railway station, establishing allied control of the entire Burma road from Lashio to Kunning. The Chinese had captured old Lashio yesterday.

Plans Disorganized

Enemy battle plans apparently have been disorganized by the British dash across the Irrawaddy river valley to the Mektila area, an operation which has threatened the Japanese rear communications.

Unless the Japanese can bring (Continued on Page Thirteen)

Charles Snapp Dies in Crash

MERRILL—Cpl. Charles Snapp, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Snapp, of Merrill, and one of their five in the service, was one of a crew of nine men killed in the crash of a Liberator bomber at Mountain Home, Idaho.

Young Snapp, who served as crew member on the B-24, was reported missing Saturday and his death confirmed in a message from the war department Wednesday afternoon.

Remains of the airman will be taken to Klamath Falls and final arrangements will be held from there early next week, Mrs. Snapp said today.

Two other crew members were killed in the crash. They were Chester Snapp of Camanche, Calif., and PFC Ursal Snapp of Pueblo, Colo.

Snapp's sons, Sgt. Wilbur Snapp, Hawaii, and Sgt. Harold C. Snapp, now in France, are brothers of the airman as is Lowell Snapp at Merrill high school.

The Snapp family has lived in Merrill district for the past 15 years.

Chester Snapp will accompany her husband here.

Cologne Example of Reich Suicide Plan, Says Writer

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER

COLOGNE, March 8 (AP)—After taking inventory of what remains of Cologne and other lesser German cities captured by the allies, the conclusion is inescapable that Adolf Hitler has committed the Reich to national suicide.

I have just completed my first detailed tour of Cologne's downtown section. It was a sorry sight on this bleak, cold day.

Cologne's Wall Street, the Unter Sachsenhausen, exists no more. The proud structures of the Reichsbank, Dresdener bank, Diskonto Gesellschaft and other financial institutions are burned out shells. The main postoffice directly opposite these banks is in far worse condition than the postoffice in ruined Aachen.

Exchange Kaput

The telephone exchange is a wreck—"completely kaput (finished)," is the way it was described by Lt. Col. Robbins P. Crowell of Washington, D. C., AMG telephone specialist.

"It's far worse than Aachen," Crowell added.

The large modern insurance company buildings have taken terrific beatings from the air, none can be used without complete overhauling.

Dynamite Found

Large quantities of dynamite were found within the structures. A woman who emerged from a nearby basement explained bitterly:

"The gestapo swine intended to blow up all these buildings. What did they care that many of us had been living in the cellars. When the American soldiers came they ran away and never paused to blow the buildings up."

Not even the residents in the western part of Cologne are aware of the full extent of the damage in the "Aldstadt," or old part of the city because of the complete breakdown of transportation facilities in the urban area.

EQUALIZED TAX, VET BILL OKAYED

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr.

SALEM, March 7 (AP)—Bills to create rural school districts to equalize school taxes and to set up the machinery for county manager form of government won house approval today and went to the senate, while the senate completed legislative action on a measure creating the state department of veterans affairs.

The school equalization measure, which would be referred to the people, would provide one school district for each county, but first-class districts would not be included.

House Defeated Bill

The vote on the bill was 32 to 26, only one more than the 31 votes necessary to pass it. Last week the house defeated it with 29 votes for and 22 against.

The opponents objected to counties being forced to adopt the plan.

There were only three votes against the county manager bill, which is carrying out the terms of a constitutional amendment approved by the people last November.

The bill provides that 10 per

Flood Waters Inch Close To Dike Tops Along Ohio

PORTSMOUTH, O., March 8 (AP)—Flood waters inched closer to tops of dikes in this Ohio river city, but elsewhere along the 1000-mile valley floods neared or passed their crests and at some points were beginning to subside.

The army brought combat tactics into play to keep steadily rising waters of the Ohio and tributary Scioto rivers from gushing over Portsmouth floodwalls.

Supplies to Drop

More than 25,000 empty sand bags were loaded on trucks at Cincinnati, to be sped to an air base at Wilmington, Ohio. From there C-47 transports would drop them to soldiers and volunteers who have waged never-ceasing battle to erect earthworks and sandbag barriers atop existing flood barriers.

The river here was past the 64-foot stage, two feet higher than the city's flood wall. It was being held back by the hastily erected barriers. River Forecaster George Marth said the crest here would be reached at 64.5 feet late today.

Louisville expected a crest of 47 to 47.5 feet, tonight or tomorrow and forecasters said the high point would remain stationary for about 24 hours before receding.

The Ohio reached a crest at Wheeling, W. Va. 11.3 feet above flood stage and upriver at East Liverpool, Ohio, the water started ebbing at the rate of .2 foot an hour.

Yank Soldier Hanged for Murder of English Cabbie; Crowd Protests Sentence

By BARBARA WACE

LONDON, March 8 (AP)—Karl Gustav Hulten, 22-year-old American paratrooper, died on the Pentonville prison gallows today while a middle-aged woman, protesting his execution for the hold-up-slaying of a London cabbie driver, was trying to crash the courtyard gates in a garbage truck.

A crowd had to jump fast to avoid injury as the unexpected incident occurred outside the prison. The woman, Mrs. Elsie Van Der Elst, who long has been a vigorous opponent of capital punishment, repeatedly cried: "Damned Shame!"

"You let the girl off, but you hang the man. It's a damned shame!"

She referred to the reprieve granted Hulten's co-defendant, Mrs. Elizabeth Marina Jones, 18-year-old British strip tease dancer. Home Secretary Herbert Morrison recommended to the King Tuesday that her sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Hulten, whose home was in Cambridge, Mass., and the girl were convicted in an internationally publicized trial at Old Bal-

VANDENBERG ASKS POLISH COALITION

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP)—Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) declared today that the three-power committee meeting in Moscow must set up "a truly representative" Polish coalition government if it is to be supported by the United States.

Vandenberg, a delegate to the April 25 world security conference, gave the senate his "complete approval" of a warning voiced by British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden to the Lublin government against persecution of supporters of the London exile government.

Acid Tests

One of the "acid tests" to be applied to the new Polish government, the Michigan senator told colleagues, would be whether it furnished home and country to the Polish troops which fought with the allies at Cassino in Italy and are fighting on the European front.

At best, he said it was a "curious process" for American, British and Russian representatives—with no Poles present—to sit down in Moscow and attempt to constitute a provisional Polish government.

There is no escaping the fact, Vandenberg continued, that the treatment accorded Poland will be looked upon by other small nations as indicative of their fate.

Emphasizing the "dreadful proportions" of the Moscow deal (Continued on Page Thirteen)

BATAAN HEROES NOW BACK IN HOMELAND

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8 (AP)—"This makes it all worthwhile!"

With these few, tear-choked words, Sgt. William Thomas, 48, Bloomsburg, Pa., expressed for nearly all the 272 heroes of Bataan returned here today, the reaction to the open armed, heartfelt and clamorous welcome given them as they steamed through the Golden Gate and into San Francisco.

After three years of imprisonment by the Japanese, they were liberated January 30 by rangers who broke into the Cabanatuan camp to free all held there.

San Francisco turned out in a tumultuous welcome for the heroes. The harbor was alive with boats, their whistles and sirens screaming, their masts and lines bedecked. Bands played and flags tossed.

"I'm tickled. I just can't talk. It's the most beautiful sight I ever saw!" That's the way it was with Lt. Harry M. Brown, 30, of Clero, Ind., who had been away four years. His wife now is at Brownsburg, Ind.

Mayor Roger Lapham and army officers boarded the big transport in the harbor to extend an official welcome.

"Every one of us is glad you're here," the mayor exclaimed. "We will try to make up for the things you have gone through. Thank God you're back."

Bombers Shatter Nazi Targets

LONDON, March 8 (AP)—German rail and oil targets were struck another blow today as 1350 American bombers, following up the RAF's 1250-plane night assault, attacked seven oil plants and five switching yards handling traffic to the Ruhr battlefields.

The most sustained air campaign of the war carried through its 24th consecutive day.

Brides Kept From Grooms

It's tough, but sometimes it happens! It used to be an old back-country custom to try to separate bride and groom on their wedding night.

At the Hostess House at the U. S. Marine Barracks it is a necessary sometimes.

Capt. Wilson L. Brown Jr., officer in charge of the Hostess House, reports through Sgt. R. H. Thomas at the number of commerce that the housing problem is becoming so acute that it is necessary to accommodate wives of service men only—their husbands must sleep at the Barracks.

Several newly-weds have been separated in this way to accommodate everyone.

The Hostess House has 22 rooms with double beds, a restaurant and a snack bar. Customarily, soldiers and their wives are accommodated for a five-day period.

Ordinarily this should be time enough to make more permanent arrangements.

Due to the shortage of available places of residence, lately has become compulsory for wives to share rooms at the Hostess House to make room for them all. At the end of the five-day period they are still there.

Charles Stark of the chamber of commerce appeals to the chamber of commerce to list vacancies at the chamber of commerce as soon as they know there will be any.

Residents are again urged to rent unused rooms in their homes to wives of service men.

