

25,000 NAZIS LAY DOWN ARMS

Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1945

Number 10428

Weather News

March 31, 1945
Max. (March 30) 65 Min. 29
Precipitation last 24 hours .00
Stream year to date 7.91
Normal 9.23 Last year 5.99
Forecast: Partly cloudy. Cooler Sunday.

Tank Units 170 Miles From Berlin

By JAMES M. LONG
PARIS, March 31 (AP)—U. S. third army tanks thrust to within 170 miles of Berlin today in the van of the nine allied armies slashing into Germany behind a wall of more than 3000 tanks.

The ruined Ruhr area and thousands of German troops were sealed off for all practical purposes.

Gen. Omar N. Bradley's field headquarters announced the new U. S. 15th army was in action on an undisclosed sector, and the French first army lunged across the Rhine this morning somewhere between Mannheim and Karlsruhe.

Allied columns were carving up Germany at high speed, and 25,000 Germans surrendered yesterday alone.

U. S. ninth army tanks raced forward today toward a possible juncture with American first army tanks near Paderborn and entrapment of perhaps 30,000 to 40,000 Germans in the Ruhr. The ninth army's second armored division already was in radio contact with advanced elements of the first army after a 30-mile smash in 36 hours.

One column of the U. S. third army's fourth armored division speared the closest to Berlin—170 miles—reaching Alautenhausen, east of Hersfeld, which was passed this morning. Even this report was hours old.

Troops of the 21st army group, which includes Britons, Canadians, Americans, and airborne soldiers, dashed forward up to 16 miles today, but security silence cloaked the location of gains there. Canadian armor and troops shook loose on the northern flank of the front. They forged northeast of Emmerich against resistance lessening hourly.

C-47 transports using fields east of the Rhine flew in gasoline supplies to the rampaging third army.

No details of the role of the U. S. 15th army, commanded by Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, were disclosed immediately.

The U. S. seventh army burst through the Odenwald to within 15 miles of Wuerzburg, and 130 of Munich.

3rd Nears Kassel
Northward the American third army pushed down the last 10 miles to Kassel, 165 miles from Berlin, and perhaps

LONDON, March 31 (AP)—Gen. Eisenhower issued a message to the German army tonight calling for surrender.

already had reached the industrial city of 230,000 population. The first and ninth American armies sped toward a linkup around the Ruhr beyond Paderborn, with the gap narrowing hourly. Up to 40,000 Germans in the Ruhr might be trapped by their juncture.

The British second army driving into the heart of Westphalia racked up overnight gains up to 11 miles against little opposition except ruins and roadblocks.

Security silence concealed the extent of allied gains, but a front dispatch disclosed the sixth armored division of the third army had struck to within 10 miles of Kassel, after speeding 45 miles since Friday.

U. S. 4th Drives Ahead
Thirty miles farther southeast the U. S. fourth armored "Breakthrough" division drove to a point four miles southeast of Hersfeld, also spearing to within 175 miles of Berlin.

U. S. first army tanks had dashed northward through Paderborn, and were nearing a junction with American ninth army tanks which ran on through Friday night by moonlight in an obstacle race over

(Continued on Page Two)

RUSSIAN ARMY NEARS VIENNA IN NEW DRIVE

LONDON, March 31 (AP)—The red army captured Ratibor, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

The strategic city, only a few miles from the Czechoslovakian border, is 150 miles northeast of Vienna and 16 from Moravska Ostrava, which controls the northern approach to the Moravian gap.

The new offensive drive posed another threat to Vienna. Other red army troops moving into Austria 52 miles from Vienna rammed into reinforced German lines, and farther to the north-east stepped up an assault to

Commander In Waves Here

Cmdr. Joy B. Hancock, USNR, (Wave), women's reserve representative for the chief of the bureau of aeronautics and the deputy chief of naval operations for air, arrived at the Klamath naval air station Friday by plane on an official inspection of air activities at the station.

The officer left Saturday morning by plane for Tillamook and Astoria inspecting air activities of the 13th and 11th naval districts.

There are only two Waves in the navy with the rank of commander, and Cmdr. Hancock is one of these. She is also one of two Waves who also saw service in the navy during World War I.

At that time Cmdr. Hancock was serving with the rank of yeoman at the naval air station, Cape May, N. J.

The commander was accompanied on the inspection trip by Lt.-Cmdr. Mary Dally, USNR (Wave), women's reserve representative and district director of the 13th naval district, Seattle, and Lt. Mary E. Lindenmuth, USNR (Wave), women's reserve representative of naval air bases, 13th naval district and naval air station, Seattle.

Huge Invasion Force Menaces Ryukyu Islands

By LEONARD MILLIMAN
Associated Press War Editor

American transports were reported by radio Tokyo to be moving in today behind minesweepers for an invasion of Okinawa, bulwark of the Ryukyu island stepping stones to Japan, which Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced are being bombarded for the ninth consecutive day by battleships standing close inshore.

The Pacific fleet admiral also reported U. S. carrier planes knocked out 47 more Japanese vessels, including 18 sunk, and 88 aircraft, including at least 46 definitely destroyed. In 18 hours U. S. communiques have reported the damaging or destruction of 72 Nipponese vessels and 134 aircraft in the western Pacific.

As battleships kept their 16-inch guns blazing at Okinawa's beach defenses, British carriers swept over the Sakishima group in the southern Ryukyus. American sea-borne aircraft swept the rest of the archipelago, and B-29s made double strikes at the southernmost islands of Japan just north of the Ryukyus.

Military installations were reported destroyed in widely scattered sections of the Ryukyus and Kyushu island of southern Japan. Heaviest action centered around Okinawa, 325 miles to the south.

The Japanese Domei news agency said transports arrived on the scene, in the center of the Ryukyu archipelago, as the naval and air bombardment went into the ninth consecutive day.

"Minesweepers are active, preparing for landing operations," Domei said, "but no landings have been attempted yet."

Japs Use Suicide Pilots
Japan relied on suicide pilots and plywood torpedo boats to check the invasion threat while superforts roared out of the Marianas islands in a series of raids against Kyushu island to pin down Nipponese air forces on southern Nippon.

In the Philippines Nipponese soldiers failed to halt two more Yank island invasions. The 40th infantry division landed on Negros in the central Philippines and overran 25 miles of the west coast, while the 38th division killed 500 Japanese in a brief, stiff fight for tiny Caballo island near Corregidor in Manila bay.

35 Jap Ships Sunk
American communiques reported allied aircraft and submarines have sunk 35 more Japanese ships, damaged 37, destroyed 82 planes and damaged 42. Ships sent to the bottom include seven destroyers or destroyer escorts. All but one destroyer were accounted for by submarines which sank 11 ships to run their wartime total up to 1083.

Not to be outdone, a Japanese imperial communique claimed Nipponese aircraft and PT boats sank 30 and damaged 20 of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's fifth fleet in the Ryukyus.

Tokyo radio added that the emperor's PT boats made their third attack of the week on the American fleet at dawn today. These tiny torpedo craft are the largest vessels Japan's once powerful navy has been able to send against the allied task forces.

Tokyo said first waves of the Superforts poured fire bombs on western Kyushu shortly after midnight and "more than 100" struck again before noon. The second attack scarred both military and industrial targets, including airdromes and naval bases. Targets around the Inland sea were raided simultaneously with the first Kyushu strike.

Koiso Criticized
As radio Tokyo talked of the invasion threat to Okinawa, Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso's government was sharply criticized by Japan's new totalitarian "sure victory" party for failure to make "full preparations for all eventualities."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported that throughout the central Philippines, where American island invasions have become an almost daily occurrence, "the enemy seems bewildered and his defense is rapidly collapsing."

Rhoads was married while in Auckland, New Zealand. His wife Louise resides with a sister in Vancouver, B. C.

Prior to entering the service, he was associated with the Rhoads window cleaning concern, and resumed work with the national guard. He took his training at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., and Camp Elliot, San Diego, Calif., where he remained as instructor for a while.

Milton Rhoads is survived by his widow, his parents, five brothers and two sisters. His brothers are: H. L. Rhoads, a veteran of the Seabees, in Klamath Falls; Doran C. Rhoads, navy training station, Oklaoma; Kennel C. Rhoads, a civilian at McClellan Field, Sacramento, Calif.; Cpl. Lowell Rhoads, Camp Rupert, Ida.; Wesley Rhoads on inactive service with the USNR awaiting orders in Klamath Falls.

The sisters are: Mrs. Clarence Eastburn, and Mrs. Margie Hurt, both of Klamath Falls.

Arrangements under which

war veterans returning to the farm may be assured of adequate equipment is sought by Sen. Cordon.

Cordon has written War Production Director J. A. Krug and War Food Administrator Marvin Jones, asking if a system of preference priorities can be worked out to supply veterans with tractors and other farm machinery.

He told a reporter that the Milton, Oregon, post of the American Legion has informed him that a number of discharged veterans were anxious to establish themselves on farms but were unable to obtain equipment.

Refusal of selective service boards to defer millworkers, an aide to Cordon said, threatens to reduce one per cent of capacity. The mill is producing lumber from Ponderosa pine, in great demand by the armed services.

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Tanks Lead Way Ashore In Cebu Island Landing



American division infantrymen wade ashore from their landing barge in wake of heavy armaments to invade east coast of Cebu island in the Philippines. The hard-hitting Yanks have driven to within 2 1/2 miles of Cebu city, bomb-shattered capital of the island now being set to the torch by retreating Japanese. (Signal corps radio-telephoto from Manila).

American Doughboys With Thousands Who Will Attend Easter Services Tomorrow

JERUSALEM, March 31 (AP)—American and other allied soldiers will be among the thousands who will pay homage tomorrow (Easter) morning to the holy sepulchre, with at least part of the world for the first time in years on the threshold of peace.

Many allied soldiers walked in the historic Via Dolorosa procession yesterday and joined in Good Friday services where they heard the hope expressed with confidence that this would be the last wartime Easter.

U. S. Representative Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.) who is on a tour checking government bureau operations for the house appropriations committee, was among them. He reported seeing at least one group of 200 American soldiers who came from the Persian gulf, Egypt and Italy for Easter rites in the Holy City.

The exhibition includes a reproduction of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore, made of Palestine thistles. There is a model of Christ's grave covered with a massive stone.

This year more than ever, an aura of peace is over Jerusalem, which in the course of the last 4000 years has been destroyed 17 times and conquered 36 times. This time the Holy City has been spared destruction.

The soldiers will attend high mass at the holy sepulchre and kneel before Christ's tomb in a special chapel in the middle of the high rotunda enclosed by shining yellow and white marble.

Those who throng from historic Jaffa gate or through the Arab market will find nothing new in the customary Easter walk, but those who approach the sepulchre from the direction of Gethsemane, from the south,

and through the Via Dolorosa will find a change at the sixth station.

The sixth station is the one where, according to Christian tradition, a Jewish woman wiped the blood-covered forehead of Jesus while he was being thrust toward Golgotha. In the time of the crusaders a chapel was built here and for the last few months it has housed a Rockefeller museum exhibition of drawings, plans and models, giving a picture of Jerusalem in the time of Christ.

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WLB DIRECTS COAL OPERATORS TO WORK

WASHINGTON, March 31 (AP)—The war labor board today directed John L. Lewis and bituminous coal operators to continue "the uninterrupted production of coal" under their present contract.

The contract is due to expire at midnight tonight.

The board ordered that any wage increases granted under a new contract be made retroactive as of today.

No provision was made for a \$15,000,000 guarantee fund demanded by Lewis at a hearing before the board earlier today.

Lewis had asked that the operators be required to post that amount, representing the operators' estimate of the cost for one month of putting into effect a contract such as proposed by Secretary of Labor Perkins. The Perkins proposal was rejected by the operators.

The board's order left the period of the retroactivity open, directing that the present contract be continued "until the differences that now separate the parties are peacefully and finally resolved."

The board's decision was unanimous except in the retroactivity feature, on which the four industry representatives dissented.

William Tucker Hurt in Action

On March 23, Mrs. Frank Forrer of Klamath Falls received word that her son, PFC William M. Tucker, of the U. S. army was wounded in action on Luzon on February 27. No further details were given in the telegram from the war department.

Prior to being inducted in November of 1943, young Tucker was a student of Klamath Union high school. He reported first to Fort Lewis, Wash., after which he received his basic training at Camp Roberts in California.

Tucker reported for overseas duty in April of last year, first seeing action on New Guinea, and later being sent to the Philippines.

Floral Tributes Cover Memorial

The base of the shaft on the courthouse lawn, which stands in memory of the Klamath basin men who have given their lives in World War 2, was covered this morning with floral tributes.

Easter lilies, daffodils, white stock and roses, placed by friends and relatives of the men whose names are printed on the shaft, were laid at the shrine. At the base of the perpetual light was a huge cluster of lilies.

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Cordon Asks Investigation Of Drafting of Lumber Men

WASHINGTON, March 30 (AP)—Senator Guy Cordon (R-Ore.) has started an investigation of the effect of recent selective service orders on the lumber industry.

Refusal of selective service boards to defer millworkers, an aide to Cordon said, threatens to reduce one per cent of capacity. The mill is producing lumber from Ponderosa pine, in great demand by the armed services.

Cordon is taking the matter up with the war production board, the war manpower commission and selective service.

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He told a reporter that the Milton, Oregon, post of the American Legion has informed him that a number of discharged veterans were anxious to establish themselves on farms but were unable to obtain equipment.



PFC Milton M. Rhoads

Oregon Town Not Surprised That Yanks Crossed Rhine--Watched Bridge Built

RUFUS, Ore., March 31 (AP)—It was no surprise to residents of this Columbia river hamlet that Yanks were able to bridge the Rhine in around seven hours.

For months they had been watching U. S. army engineer forces build the bridge and push it across the Columbia in practice here. At this point, the river and surrounding country resemble the Rhine and its environs.

When the laboratory job was finished, Lt. Col. G. S. Witters, who directed it, said:

"There's your bridge. It should get our troops and their heavy equipment across the Rhine without trouble. And we should be able to set it up in about seven hours."

The engineers were directed last August to devise the bridge. They were told it must

be transported over rough terrain, be capable of supporting a heavy concentrated load, and be so constructed that field troops could get it up in a hurry. It must, the orders read, support the army's new 45-ton M28 tank.

Aided by a French engineer who knew the Rhine country and an American who had thrown bridges over the Rhine in France and over Italian streams, the test crew set out. They started with a design tested at Yuma, Ariz., after discarding the famed English Bailey bridge.

They found the 80-foot pontoon was too long to handle in rough terrain. So they cut it in two. They worked out what the colonel described as "controlled articulation." This permitted distribution of concentrated weight over eight pontoons. A new scheme for connecting ponton sections was worked out.

The tested bridge, Col. Witters said, will support a concentrated load of 54 tons.

Henry J. Kaiser, the industrialist, was called in when the design was perfected to build some of 4000 pontoons needed. It was planned that 56 complete bridges costing about 120 million dollars, would be built. The pilot bridge across the Columbia cost 34 million dollars, Colonel Witters said.

Weeks before American forces had reached the Rhine, the testing and construction job was done, Colonel Witters said. "We have developed the best type of floating bridge in the world, and we confidently expect that it will do a job in passing American armies across the Rhine on their way to Berlin."