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NO. 20

Maurice Erhart Awarded Bronze Star Medal

Receives Star for Heroic Work against Enemy in the Siegfried Line Offensives

WITH THE 95TH INFANTRY Division—Technical Sergeant Maurice Erhart, son of Mr. Frank Erhart of Wabash, Neb., has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy during the 5th (Victory) division's fierce fighting in the Siegfried line defenses bordering the Saar river.

A member of Co. "I" 378th infantry regiment, Sergeant Erhart for four straight nights organized and led large carrying parties to the Saar river to pick up supplies essential to the operations of his company in the east bank bridgehead.

The route was constantly menaced by enemy patrols, hostile machine gun and mortar fire, plus artillery shelling. Fearlessly braving these hazards, Sergeant Erhart kept increasing control of his men, administered aid to the wounded and encouraged the exhausted, his award citation said.

Sergeant Erhart attended Mardock high school. He entered the Army July 7, 1942.

Local 40 Et 8 At Council Bluffs

Sunday a group of the members of Cass County voiture No. 1218 of La Societe Des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux of this city were at Council Bluffs where they attended a "wreck" of candidates for admission to the Societe.

The Cass County voiture had one candidate for the initiation, Joseph John, former mayor of Weeping Water and past commander of the Weeping Water legion post.

Among those going to Council Bluffs were W. R. Holly, chef de gare, Clyde Rosborough, Louis Baumgart, Fred Lugsch, Fred Horbster, Ben A. Olive of Weeping Water, Walter J. Wunderlich, Nehawick, Elmer Hallstrom, Avoca.

The work covered the greater part of the afternoon and was conducted by the wrecking crew of Omaha voiture 206.

Possible Allied Landing In French Indo-China

Visit of Lord Montbatten to Chungking Seen as Possible Clue to New Attacks

CHUNGKING, March 12. —(UPI)—Admiral Lord Louis Montbatten's four-day visit to Chungking increased speculation today that the allies may be planning a landing in French Indo-China.

The Chinese government announced yesterday that Montbatten, supreme allied commander for southeast Asia, had conferred with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, supreme commander in China, on military matters last Thursday through Saturday.

Their decisions were not disclosed for obvious reasons, but they almost certainly foreshadowed new, coordinated blows against the Japanese on the Asiatic continent by Chinese, British and American forces.

Perhaps coincidentally, the Chinese ministry of information said in a release Saturday as Montbatten and Chiang were concluding their conversations that both Frenchmen and natives in Indo-China were expecting allied landings there.

"Once the allies are ready to land on Indo-China, Chinese forces in southern Yunnan will move southward to effect a juncture with the allies," the statement said.

It said the first objectives of such a landing probably would be Haiphong or Saigon, where there are good port facilities and shipyards. Indo-China presumably falls under Montbatten's southeast Asia command.

(The Melbourne radio said Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, commander of the British Pacific fleet, had announced that his forces had completed tests of their supply lines and now were ready for action.)

The Japanese seized control of key points in Indo-China Saturday on grounds that the French already were aiding American submarines and planes in addition to preparing to assist an allied landing.

Traffic Cases Over Week End

Sunday Harry Walters, state highway patrol, brought in Oliver Marshall, of Omaha on the charge of operating a motor vehicle without the proper license.

Saturday evening Sheriff Joe Mrasek was called to highway 75, north of this city, where an auto accident was reported. The car belonging to Luther E. Adeck had been parked near the shoulder of the highway, while he was doing some repairs, on the car. The car of John Speck passed and sideswiped the Adeck car. Little damage was done to the cars and no one was injured.

RETURNS HOME

Irene LaHoda Smith returned home Friday evening after spending a month in Clovis, New Mexico, where she was visiting her husband, Pfc. Dennis Smith.

"Smitty" is now crewing a P-63 fighter. It is quite a change for him to be grounded after spending so much time in the air.

Tank Led Yanks Drive Deeper Into Germany; Fires of Nagoya Aircraft Center Visible At Sea

PARIS, Mar. 12. —(UPI)— Tank-led American troops drove steadily deeper into Germany's inner fortresses from the Remagen bridgehead today and Berlin said the 1st army had made two more crossings of the Rhine nearby.

Joint blows of the U. S. 1st and 3rd armies wiped out a German pocket northwest of Coblenz. Meager reports did not make clear whether the destroyed pocket was the big one formed by the American junction on the Rhine, in which some 23,000 Germans were trapped.

Fighter bombers of the U. S. 9th air force raked the German lines before the swelling bridgehead, and maintained a constant patrol over the Ludendorff bridge.

Nazi broadcasts acknowledged that the Americans were pouring reinforcements into the Rhine foothold. They said shock troops pushed across the Rhine north of Remagen bridge in assault boats and two new crossings. The nazis estimated that upwards of 50,000 men were massed in the bridgehead ready for a big push against the southern flank of the Ruhr. Supreme headquarters said Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' troops firmly held the initiative in the Remagen bridgehead. The Germans still were shelling it, despite the acquisition of high ground on which some enemy observation posts were situated.

Because of the nature of the operations and the precarious plight of the enemy, Sheaf reports were purposely vague. For security reasons a time lag was imposed in many sectors. A bald announcement at Sheaf said the German pocket around Laacher See, 13 miles northwest of Coblenz had been cleared. The units fighting there were not identified and there was no indication of the size of the prisoner bag. Laacher See is a resort lake near Andernach.

The German DNB News Agency reported British troops were making preparations to cross the Rhine. Other enemy reports forecast big scale fighting in the Nijmegen-Emmerich sector, where the nazis had been expecting a new push against the Ruhr.

The first army's reported power drive into the Remagen breach came as the Canadian first and U. S. 9th armies to the north finished off the last German salient west of the Rhine in the Wesel area and moved into position for an assault on the river line.

To the south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American 3rd army crossed to within a mile of Coblenz from the north and south west and cleared all except a 15-mile stretch of the Mosel rivers north bank between Coblenz and Trier.

North of the Mosel Patton's men were rapidly mopping up the remnants of an estimated 23,000 Germans pocketed in the Eifel mountains.

Scattered German army and infantry groups still were reported escaping through the 15-mile gap between Cochem, 22 miles southwest of Coblenz and Erden, 23 miles northeast of Trier. But the bulk of the pocketed nazi divisions faced almost certain death or capture.

Alarmed German military spokesmen said Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges was shifting the bulk of his U. S. 1st army into the breakthrough area to exploit the unexpected capture of Ludendorff bridge at Remagen last Wednesday.

Censored dispatches from the partially blacked out Rhine front reported only that the Americans were pushing out steadily all along the perimeter of a beachhead that yesterday extended at least three miles inland and nine miles along the river bank.

Radio Berlin, however, said the Yanks already had pushed two armored and two infantry divisions across the Rhine and held a salient more than 10 miles wide.

American shock troops, Berlin said, crossed the Rhine in assault boats this morning at two more points inside the northern flank of the bridgehead. They landed on either side of the captured river village of Rheinbreitbach, 3 1/2 miles north of Ludendorff bridge, in a move apparently aimed at covering the construction of pontoon bridges.



Howard Favors And Wife Return Home

Howard Favors, GM 2-C, who, with Mrs. Favors, has been visiting here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Favors, Sr., are departing Monday evening for their home at Richmond, California, where they have been making their home while Howard has been in the naval service.

While here they had the pleasure of visiting with the many friends in this city and vicinity. On their return to the coast Howard is expecting to take examination for a new rating.

CHILD SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

Howard Kennel was in Omaha Sunday where he spent the afternoon visiting with his daughter, Marjorie, who is at the St. Catherine hospital, where she was operated on the past week for an emergency appendicitis case.

The little daughter came through the operation fine but later developed a case of pneumonia that has made her recovery delayed.

Purchases Farm West of City

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Schmidtmann of this city have purchased the 160-acre farm west of this city, belonging to Mrs. Catherine Mayer, one of the heirs of the estate of the late Philip Becker, of Mason City, Illinois.

The farm is located seven miles west of Plattsmouth and one of the choice unimproved farms of this section of the county.

Shiber Family Return to Home

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Shiber of near Union are now home after several weeks spent at the St. Mary's hospital at Nebraska City, as the result of injuries suffered in an auto wreck.

The car of the Shibers was badly damaged when it was struck by a passing car and Mrs. Shiber was taken at once to the hospital at Nebraska City, while Mr. Shiber came onto this city but later was compelled to go to the hospital and was found to have suffered severe injuries to the vertebrae.

—Weather Forecast—

High—44
Low—39
Nebraska forecast:—Fair, with little change in temperature today, tonight and Tuesday; low tonight 35-30.

of Ludendorff bridge, in a move apparently aimed at covering the construction of pontoon bridges.

Roads Over The County Reported In Bad Condition

Wet Winter Weather Is Showing Effects in the Roads in all Parts of County

One of the chief questions that is asked by residents of the county these days is that "How are the Roads?" with the answer, "there aren't any."

The wet weather that has prevailed for the past winter is bearing its effect in the roads that are practically without bottom and will be probably for some time, until sunny weather can dry them sufficiently to be worked over and placed back in shape.

The road conditions were reflected in the number from the rural districts in the city Saturday. Where there were hundreds in the more pleasant weather, there were few from a distance and these returned to their homes before darkness came on them and added to the road troubles.

The soft roads apply to the rock and gravel surfaced roads as well as the common dirt roads that connect the various farm neighborhoods, all apparently being in a bad way.

One of the worst roads is that of the Louisville-Plattsmouth road, one of the most heavily traveled in the county, as this highway has been in the process of change from a county to a state highway and was not in the best of condition even before the softening weather conditions.

Benefit Game For Basketball Team

On Wednesday evening a benefit basketball game will be held at the high school gym, the proceeds of the game being used in the defraying of the expenses of taking the Blue Devils to the state tournament.

While not contenders in the tournament, it is hoped that the funds raised will allow the boys to attend the state tourney, many of the players never having had the opportunity of witnessing the state classic.

It is expected that two of the girls' teams will play in one of the games while in the other the high school quintet will play an all star group headed by Lt. Wayne Galyer and Coach Merle Stewart.

Bert Jameson Has Purchased New Home

The deal has been concluded by which Bert Jameson, one of the prominent residents of the vicinity of Murray, purchased the residence property of E. A. Wurl at 6th and Vine streets.

The residence is located in the business district and will make a most pleasant home.

Death of Edward Kroll at Omaha

The death of Edward Kroll, 52, 1908 South 27th street, Omaha, occurred Saturday evening at 7:15 following an illness of some duration.

Mr. Kroll was a son-in-law of Joseph Cook of this city and is known to many of the residents of this locality.

He is survived by the widow, Juanita; daughter, Beth; sister, Mrs. Carl Stamm, Omaha; brothers, Robert, Omaha; Charles R., Fort Dodge Iowa; Gus and Paul Sioux City, Iowa.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at the Crosby-Meyer chapel in Omaha at 10:30 Tuesday morning. The interment will be at the Young cemetery, south of Plattsmouth.

Bills To Cover Barber Shops In State Considered

Regulation to Barber Prices and Sanitary Condition of Shops Heard

Lincoln, Nebr., March 12.—(UPI)— Bills establishing minimum barber prices, to protect barbers from "cut-throat" competition and the public from unsanitary establishments, were held in the legislature's public health committee following hearing late yesterday.

Kept with it was a companion bill authorizing revocation of license of any shop or school which failed to abide by rules and regulations set up by the board of barber examiners.

Introduced by Sens. James H. Anderson, Scottsbluff; Fred Seaton, Hastings, and Lloyd Kain, Lexington, the proposed legislation was supported by the Nebraska Association of Barbers.

A price floor would assure barbers of the "fair income to which they are entitled," Anderson told committee members.

"If we are to have fair prices, there is logic to our demands for sanitary conditions in the shops," Seaton said. "If I thought this bill would benefit barbers, solely I would not be so much interested in it. It also will benefit the general public."

Minimum prices could be fixed in any locality by the examining board, after a hearing requested either by the board or by 65 per cent of the barbers in any locality. The board also would be authorized to extend prices to adjoining counties, if such action were considered necessary.

FUNERAL OF ED SNODGRASS

Funeral services for Benjamin Edward Snodgrass will be held at the Reves funeral home Tuesday afternoon at 2:30. The interment will be held at Sidney, Iowa.

GUAM, March 12. —(UPI)— Fires visible nearly 100 miles at sea raged uncontrolled today through Nagoya, Japan's greatest aircraft manufacturing center, after 300 Superfortresses sowed 2,000 tons of incendiary bombs through the center of the city.

(A communique issued by the war department at Washington said returning crew members reported "fires spreading widely over the city's main industrial areas." Fighter opposition was light to heavy and anti aircraft fire ranged from meager to intense it said. It said reports indicated the attack was "equally as successful as the assault on Tokyo" two days earlier.)

Swinging 165 miles west from still-burning Tokyo, the giant armada unloaded death and destruction on five square miles of war plants, business blocks, government buildings and flimsy dwellings in the tinder-box center of Nagoya for two hours under cover of darkness early today.

Returning pilots said the rain of bombs, more concentrated even than the 2,300 tons which burned out 15 square miles of Tokyo Saturday, kindled "hellish fires" that threatened to spread far beyond the original target area.

A Japanese communique indicated that a number of fires still were out of control at 4:30 p. m. (Tokyo time), more than 16 hours after the start of the raid.

It said a fire had been started in the "precincts" of the Atsuta shrine, one of 10 large Shinto or religious shrines in Japan, but added that "the main and detached shrines were safe."

Radio Tokyo acknowledged that a number of fires still were out of control by 10 a. m. some 10 hours after the start of the attack. It was probable that some would burn for 48 hours or more.

Maj. Gen. Curtis Le May, commander of the 21st Bomber Command in the Marianas, reserved judgment until all reports were in, but said "so far the attack appears very successful."

From Washington came word that B-29s of the 20th Bomber Command in India also were in action today. A medium force—probably 50 strong—bombed industrial targets in the Singapore area for the sixth time. The 20th command attacked Kuala Lumpur, 200 miles north of Singapore Saturday.

Superfortresses which struck at Nagoya, Japan's third largest city with 1,400,000 inhabitants, caught the defenders off guard by bombing from 5,000 instead of the customary 20,000 feet. Le May said the Japanese lacked automatic weapons for use against low-altitude raiders.

No fighter opposition was reported. Anti-aircraft fire was weak at first, but increased as the raid wore on. Losses were not announced immediately. Tokyo claimed 17 of the big planes had been shot down and more than 50 damaged.

Pfc Wayne Gorton In Louisiana

Pfc. Wayne Gorton, who has been stationed on the west coast as a member of the coast artillery, has been transferred to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, where he will undergo a six weeks strenuous training.

Pfc. Gorton has been transferred to the infantry and after his course of study at camp will be probably sent to another station.

Mrs. Gorton and infant daughter, who have been visiting in Omaha, have returned to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Valley in this city.

VISITS AT PAPIILLION

Miss Ann Louise Herold, of New York City, who is visiting here at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Henry Herold, was a guest over the week end at Papiillion, of Miss Marion Brown.

Gov. Griswold Vetoes Vets Tax Measure

Bill to Give Interest and Penalties on Property of Servicemen Held Up

Lincoln, Neb., March 12.—(UPI)— Gov. Dwight Griswold today vetoed, on the grounds that it was "unworkable" the bill to waive interest and penalties against the properties of servicemen.

The measure was introduced by Sens. Cliff N. Ogden, Omaha; Fred Seaton, Hastings; and Sidney J. Cullingham, Omaha.

No provision is made, the governor pointed out, as to proof necessary for the county treasurer to make the exemptions, nor as to what shall be deemed proper information on when a person enters service and when it is discharged.

"It is a hard bill for me as governor to veto," Griswold said. "The purpose is entirely laudable, and I trust no one will feel I am opposing this purpose. It is intended by the introducers as only a slight partial payment on the debt of gratitude we owe the men who are fighting for us today. I would be most happy to approve the bill if I thought it was workable."

Griswold indicated the proposed legislation could be amended and the present status of being "entirely unfair to the county treasurers" changed.

NOTICE D. A. R.

The Fenwick Chapter of the D. A. R. will hold its next meeting at the home of Mrs. C. A. Rosen-crans, Wednesday evening at 8:00.