

**SCOUT LEADERS  
TO TALK PLANS**

Executives of the Cape Fear Area Scout Council will meet in Wilmington today and tomorrow to discuss Scout activities for the next few weeks, according to Courtland W. Baker, Scout executive.

Heading the list of subjects for discussion will be district camps, Mr. Baker said. Beginning with the South Central Camporee April 15-17, there will be camporees in the council each week-end until the middle of June.

Other items to be discussed will be summer camp, the standard troop rating plan, and organization of new units.

Wilmington's first Eagle Scout for 1945 will be recognized at a Court of Honor in the court house at 8 p. m. tonight, according to R. Brooks Peters, Jr., advancement chairman.

James Trawick, member of Troop 30 which meets in the Vance community of Maffitt Village, has met all of the requirements of the troop, council, and national boards of review, and is qualified to receive his Eagle badge tonight. His mother will pin the badge on James, and other Eagle Scouts of Wilmington will take part in the ceremony.

Troop 36, sponsored by Sunset Park Baptist church, will conduct the opening and closing ceremonies.

Friends of Scouting who have not seen an Eagle ceremony are invited to attend tonight's Court of Honor.

**HEROES OF BULGE  
BATTLE ARE FREE**

(Continued from Page One)

mas Day their only presents were canteens of water given them surreptitiously by Russian laborers.

The liberated Americans, all of whom were corporals or sergeants from nearly every state in the Union, were taken shortly after Christmas to Bad Orb between Frankfurt on Main and Wuerzburg. Sanitary conditions there were described as appalling.

Privates were left at Bad Orb and forced to work in slate mines. All Jews were segregated and shackled and made to do whatever the Germans desired. The non-coms were transported to Sigenthal and jammed into wooden barracks with inadequate stoves.

"We were cold all the time," one Yank from the South said.

A typical day's menu consisted of: breakfast: one cup of tea or one cup of ersatz coffee, not both; dinner: one canteen cup of soup made of dehydrated greens or barley or peas; supper: one-sixth of a loaf of bread plus one pat of margarine (lately the bread ration was cut to one-seventh to one-tenth of a loaf per man.)

**SUPER FREIGHT ENGINES**  
PORTLAND, Me., April 1.—(U.P.) Twelve new superlocomotives on the Boston & Maine Railroad haul more freight than old-type engines during one month at a net saving of \$80,000.

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**Manor** TODAY & TUESDAY  
See Story Behind "Black Market" big dogs! TOM NEAL  
—In—"RACKET MAN"  
—A Chiller from Way-back! GEORGE SANDERS  
—In—"QUIET PLEASE, MURDER"  
—Also—Latest News  
OPEN 10:45 A. M. DAILY

**TODAY THEATRES**  
**BAILEY** 48c All Day (In. Tax)  
Thrills in Technicolor! "THUNDERHEAD"  
SON OF FELICKA!  
With Roddy McDowall, Preston Foster, Rita Johnson  
Shows: 11:15 - 1:05 - 3:00 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:00

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Brilliant Musical...  
Packed With Entertainment!  
"HOLLYWOOD CANTREEN"  
22 Stars! 10 Song Hits!  
YOU'LL LOVE IT!

**ROYAL** Last Day!  
It's an entrancing...  
Dancin' Romantic comed...  
"SHE'S A SWEEHEART"  
with  
Jane Darwell  
Jane Frazee  
Larry Parks

**BIJOU** Last Day!  
Hot-Headed, Hot-Blooded  
Queen of the Roar!  
Mark Tones, Jon Hall, Peter Coe in  
"GYPSY WILDCAT"  
In Technicolor!  
With Leo Carrillo

**Jap Suicide Fleet Discovered  
By Yanks In Kerama Isle Caves**

By GRANT MACDONALD

ABOARD THE 77TH DIVISION AMPHIBIOUS FLAGSHIP ON Kerama Islands, March 30.—(Dem...

laid) —(P)—The seizure of Kerama of Japanese one-man suicide boats by the 77th (Statue of Liberty) Division undoubtedly saved the American force destined for the landing on Okinawa, 25 miles to the east, from serious setbacks.

All eight islands of the Kerama group were secured by the 77th the second day after the March 26 landing, and the most unexpected discovery was the amazing number of the little boats, and tons of high explosives, hidden in caves. Three hundred of the craft have been uncovered to date.

American officers said they believed the boats were intended for use in suicide smashes against United States ships in the Okinawa landing.

(U. S. 10th Army soldiers and Marines landed on Okinawa April

1, seizing their beachheads with few casualties.)  
These 18-foot boats, powered with four-cylinder engines, were designed to carry two kinds of explosive charges—a depth charge in a rack at the stern and a torpedo bomb at the bow.

Enterprising Yanks already have dragged some of them from caves and are racing them around the inlets.

Dozens of them have been smashed by American demolition crews, and some have been pulled up on the beaches and overturned to make shelters for the soldiers.

"One of the most vital and valuable aspects of this operation is the capture or destruction of these boats," said Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce, division commander. "They might have been used with great damaging effect on Okinawa landing operations."

Some idea of what the little suicide craft could have achieved in destruction was indicated when

65 of the depth charges were collected and detonated. The explosion shook this ship a mile offshore.

The 77th landed on nine different beaches of the eight Kerama islets with almost no resistance after the beaches had been plastered with naval gunfire, air bombs and rocket salvos.

It was incredible that on D-Day as the huge invasion fleet steamed islands less than 400 miles from the enemy homeland, only five Nipponese planes appeared. Four of them were shot down. One destroyer was hit and one strafed, with very few casualties.

The First American flag was raised officially at 9:25 a. m. March 27 on Sakai island by Capt. Thomas Donnelly, chaplain of the Third Battalion of the 305th Infantry Regiment. Donnelly's home is at Bronx, N. Y.

Four Japanese civilians watched the flag raising. They stared blankly from a stockade close by.

**Azaleas And Japonicas  
Attract Easter Crowds**

Few of the thousands who visit Greenfield Park yesterday realize that most of the azaleas and camellias planted along the lake front originated in Eastern Asia and Japan, R. W. Snell, park superintendent, disclosed last night.

About a two-mile area has been developed from the Fourth street entrance to the Thirteenth street side of the park, beyond Lake Forest school, and Mr. Snell indicated that efforts would be made in the future to cultivate a larger variety which would provide a "riot of color" from late winter throughout the summer.

Henry Thurman and Sgt. P. J. Parish, of the Wilmington Police Department, were on hand yesterday to photograph the park and some of the Easter visitors. They are preparing a film on the City's activities and development. Mr. Thurman pointed out that the film, in sound and color, is expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

The first flower to bloom at the park in the late winter is the camellia, most of which already have lost their blooms. The variety of camellia most prominent at the park originated in Japan. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 azalea plants have been planted

in the area now under development.  
Also in bloom are the dogwood and red bud trees, commonly known as the Judas tree, which dates far back into Biblical history. Several varieties of wisteria also are to be seen.

Some of the unusual flowers at the lake are the pitcher plant and Venus fly trap. Only one bed of the fly traps have been cultivated, but others are to be planted.

Mr. Snell disclosed that efforts will be made soon to provide a larger variety of native flowers. One of the most prominent native flowers at the lake this summer will be the cardinal flower, a bright scarlet plant which blooms along the boggy sections of the water. A large number of these flowers were in bloom last summer.

Several varieties of iris and roses also have been cultivated. Siberian and German iris is most predominant.

The area around the spillway on Third street was the first to be cultivated at the lake, and other sections have been added from time to time. Almost half the distance around the lake now has been planted to a point beyond the Lake Forest school, and indications are that in the future visitors will enjoy the flowers most of the year round.

**First, Ninth Armies Join  
To Encircle Ruhr Valley**

(Continued from Page One)

struck north and west, forcing the enemy to begin pulling out of the Netherlands.

Little was known about the size of the remnants of the German armies trapped in the Ruhr, although it was believed the enemy had concentrated in that industrial area the greatest mass of his troops in the west. It was doubtful that many of them had escaped before the First and Ninth Armies slammed the trap shut.

Patton's Third Army continued to sweep through the sector of Kassel and the German radio reported some forces were fighting in the suburbs of that big (220,000 pop.) manufacturing city on the Fulda river.

Associated Press Correspondent Edward D. Ball said the Fourth Armored Division had broken through fierce enemy resistance which had temporarily held it up. Except for isolated pockets, the entire area west of the Fulda river from a point five miles south of Kassel to the city of Fulda was cleared.

Fulda itself was by-passed on the north as the Sixth Armored Division forced a crossing of the river 14 miles south of Kassel.

The Seventh Army's 12th Armored Division plunged in an overnight drive to the river Main near Ochsenfurt and another column reached Bad Mergentheim in the same vicinity.

In this area, Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's troops were 45 miles from Nuernberg, Germany's 16th city with a population of 430,850, and within 124 miles of Munich, the Bavarian capital.

One force, entering the town of Kirchheim, found an underground tank factory.

The enemy continued to fight fiercely inside Aschaffenburg, which once was reported cleared, but the 45th Division advanced beyond the city to a point six miles past the Main river.

The French First Army linked up with the Seventh Army at Hockenheim, ten miles south of Mannheim.

The Third Army had swept almost two-thirds of the way across the waist of Germany, and stood

100 miles from the western tip of Czechoslovakia.

The U. S. Seventh Army was as close to Czechoslovakia, and its last-announced advances had carried within 45 miles of Nuernberg, Germany's 16th city of 430,850 population, and within 124 miles of Munich, Bavarian capital.

The Third Army was barely more than 200 miles from the Russians on the Neisse river southeast of Berlin. The Seventh was 315 miles from Soviet troops striking into Austria.

Latest available dispatches told of heavy fighting Saturday in the area of Paderborn, about midway between Kassel and Muenster. First Army troops battled there toward snapping completely shut the trap of the Ruhr. Some Germans fought from behind dug-in tanks.

Two or three German divisions of perhaps 40,000 troops in the Ruhr were known to have pulled out of the area along the Rhine between Duisburg and Bonn, but it was doubtful if they had been able to make good their escape.

Two columns of the Third Army's Fourth Armored Division charged to the area of Bosserode, 14 miles west of Eisenach and 33 southwest of Kassel. Another advanced five miles to near Heringen, 13 southwest of Eisenach. The Germans threw tanks into heavy fighting near Heringen.

In the Bosserode-Heringen area the Third was on or near the Werra river. The German high command said Americans had reached the Werra, which farther north-east winds within 145 miles of Berlin, but it did not specify the sector.

Demolitions and stern German resistance checked the Sixth Armored Division five miles south of Kassel, industrial stronghold 165 miles from the Reich capital, after it had dashed 85 miles from the Main river.

The Germans said tanks which reached Kassel's southern suburbs "were held in the barrack quarters and largely destroyed."  
Another Sixth Armored column turning northeast reached the Fulda river near Neumunster, 18 miles south of Kassel.

**POLICE BEAR SIGNS**  
In Glasgow, Scotland, traffic policemen have white helmets bearing illuminated signs. The word "police" appears on the front of the helmet, and "stop" on the back. Electric power for the signs is supplied by batteries on the wearers' belt.

A little garlic or garlic salt added to boiled rice to be served with creole chicken gives a new flavor combination.

Put the leftover ham bone into bean soup to make a sturdy main dish.

**TEMPLE TO CLOSE  
PASSOVER RITES**

The concluding service of the Passover Festival will be conducted in the Temple of Israel at 8 p. m. Tuesday. Lt. Alex. Zimmer, special service officer, will assist Rabbi Thurman in reading the ritual. Pfc. Ernest Schoen, a former member of the Vienna State Opera and the San Francisco Opera will sing "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Malotte.

Major Richard R. Potter, Camp Davis base chaplain, will preach the sermon. Chaplain Potter is a veteran of 46 months in the Army chaplaincy, 31 months of which were spent overseas in the South and Southwest Pacific. He served at Guadalcanal, Fiji, Bougainville, and Dutch New Guinea.

Chaplain Potter is a Presbyterian minister, having attended Boys High school in Atlanta, Ga.; Presbyterian College in Clinton, S. C., and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., where he gained his B. D. degree. While in the Pacific he promoted the building of five chapels, using bamboo, grass and other improvised material.

A social hour, during which the Ladies of Concordia will serve as hostesses, will follow in the lounge immediately after the service. The public is cordially invited.

**City Briefs**

**MINISTERS TO MEET**  
The Wilmington Ministerial Association will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a. m. today at the YMCA, it was announced.

**BIBLE CLASS**  
The weekly gathering of the McClure Fellowship Bible class will meet for supper at 6:30 p. m. at the YMCA, it was announced. Dr. William Crowe will teach the Sunday school lesson for the following Sunday.

New York City's first apartment house is still functioning at 141 East 18th street.

**Marines And Doughboys  
Invade Okinawa Island**

(Continued from Page One)

the task of taking the 65-mile long island, defeating the enemy garrison estimated at around 80,000, and administering the worst territorial defeat of the war to Japan.

Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger, commander of the Third Amphibious Marine Corps, expressed amazement at the ease of the landings, said James Lindsley, Associated Press correspondent with the Leathernecks.

Geiger, who directed Marines in the Bougainville and Peleliu invasions, said the coral reefs made the movement of amphibious tractors difficult but the vehicles scarcely drew an enemy shot. He had expected the invasion to be the toughest the Marines ever faced, he said.

Nimitz said that more than 1,400 ships under the overall command of Adm. R. A. Spruance were involved in the operation, which had its preliminaries in the March 18-19 carrier plane attack on Japanese warships, bases and airfields in Nippon's inland sea. The U. S. forces then moved southward into the Ryukyus for intensified bombardments which started March 23.

While 1,500 naval planes hammered the Ryukyus in the operation in which a British task force of battleships, cruisers and carriers participated, the Army's 77th (Statue of Liberty) Infantry Division invaded the Kerama group, west of the southern tip of Okinawa, on March 26.

The 77th, under command of Maj. Gen. Andrew Bruce, swept up the Keramas and put heavy artillery in place to support the Okinawa landing.

Closest previous approach to the Japanese homeland was the Marines' capture of Iwo Jima, in the Volcano Group 750 air miles south of Tokyo. Organized Japanese resistance ended on Iwo March 17, after 26 days of bitter fighting.

"As our sea and air blockade cuts the enemy off from the world and as our bombing increases his strength and proficiency, our fin-

al decisive victory is assured," Nimitz said.

Nearly 1,000 Japanese planes were destroyed by Allied naval fliers in sweeps over the Ryukyus preliminary to the invasion. When the 77th Division landed on the Keramas only five enemy planes attempted to interfere with the operation and four of them were shot down.

The bitter fighting, equal to that on Iwo Jima, where the Japanese fought to the last man, is expected on Okinawa.

Capture of Okinawa will be a major defeat for Nippon, and the enemy soldiers can have no other orders than to try to stop the Americans at all costs.

"No one responsible for the defense of Japan could possibly overlook the importance of Okinawa," said an American staff officer.

The total length of the coastline in the Okinawa landing area is about eight miles, of which five and one half are useable. The irregular landing shore runs south from Zampa Cape.

Farther south is the city of Naha, a naval base with a good harbor. Naha has about 60,000 of Okinawa's approximately 435,000 population.

The degree of fanaticism in the position expected of the Japanese was demonstrated in the 77th Division's experience in the Keramas, where nearly 200 Nipponese civilians, men, women and children, were found in a ghastly suicide pile.

Grant McDonald, Associated Press correspondent with the 77th, said the American soldiers could hardly believe the bloody sight before them at the scene, where the Japanese civilians killed themselves in preference to capture by American "barbarians."

**NO SALES AT THIS STORE**

One boxboard manufacturing company, to enable customers to visualize the qualities of the containers, stocks a complete grocery store, from which not an article is sold. Glass cases hold fresh pastries and confections, perishables fill the refrigerators, and the bins are loaded with fresh fruit.

**300,000 JAPS  
COUNTED DEAD**

(Continued from Page One)

velop Bacolod Friday that the hard-pressed Japanese had no time to set off prepared demolition explosions. It was evident that the Nipponese intended to devastate Bacolod as they did Manila and Cebu.

The Yanks took intact all of the bridges spanning two rivers. They raced through Bacolod northward and mechanized units were hitting for the Talisay airfield. A small Japanese group near the town of Murcia was being liquidated.

The general also reported that Yank fliers, blocking the China sea, sank 14 ships, including three destroyers. The airmen blasted the Philippine cities of Legaspi, Davao and Baguio and again hit Formosa. First Corps troops, driving into the Benguet mountains toward Raguio, advanced three miles.

In Luzon's Zambales mountains the Yanks counted an additional 1,262 Japanese dead. This carried Japan's Philippines fatalities to just above the 300,000 mark.

If permitted to grow, corn suckers add materially to the yield of grain and forage.

**FATHER DIDN'T  
BOTHER**

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"STAGE DOOR CANTREEN"  
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WED. ONLY  
"And The Angels Sing"