

German Front Collapses; Yanks Advance 37 Miles

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.:
Temperatures: 46
Maximum 46
Minimum 35
Precipitation Trace
Forecast: Partly cloudy with showers tonight and Sunday.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Enemy Strongholds Far East of Rhine Under U. S. Assault

PARIS, March 26 (UP)—Germany's western front cracked wide open today with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army breaking into Frankfurt-on-Main and reported nearing the great Bavarian stronghold of Wuerzburg in a sensational 80-mile drive.

The Nazi front at a dozen points from north to south was torn to ribbons by allied blows too strong for the reeling Germans to ward off.

The American first army plunged forward in a 22-mile drive which may have carried their spearheads to or past Limburg, 22 miles due east of Coblenz.

Patton's men were swinging high and wide. They drove into Frankfurt, the ninth largest city in the reich and the largest city in Germany yet entered by the allies with the exception of Cologne.

Women of Union County Sought As WAC Technicians

Recruiting members of the Woman's Army Corps to serve as medical and surgical technicians in army hospitals has been undertaken by a group of Union county women as part of a nationwide campaign to obtain 8,000 women, some of whom also will serve as medical clerks in administrative work.

Mrs. Elmer McManus, chairman of the county campaign, announced the following chairmen for the various county districts: Mrs. H. G. Avery, Union; Mrs. Chris Johnson, Jr., North Powder; Mrs. Tom Burton, Elgin; and Mrs. H. A. Decker, Island City.

WACs May Choose Posts

Applications will be received by Mrs. Carrie Trolinger, secretary of the La Grande chamber of commerce, and those who enlist before April 1 will be permitted to choose the hospital to which they prefer to be assigned. The hospitals are Dewitt, Auburn, Calif.; Dibble, Palo Alto, Calif.; Hammond, Modesto, Calif.; Letterman, San Francisco; Torney, Palm Springs, Calif.; Madigan, Fort Lewis, Wash.; Bushnell, Brigham City, Utah; Baxter, Spokane; McCaw, Walla Walla; and Barnes at Vancouver.

16 Weeks Training

The women enlisted in Union county will be sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., for training, six weeks of which will be basic military and six weeks in technical instruction. Following this they will receive four weeks of on the job training in the hospital of their choice.

In an urgent call for addition—See WOMEN... Page 3

FBI Agents Will Hold Conferences

Peace officers of eastern Oregon have been invited by the federal bureau of investigation to attend a law enforcement conference in the junior high school building in Pendleton and in the city council chambers in Baker on the evenings of April 16 and 17, respectively.

Special Agent Ralph C. Vogel will discuss "The Law Enforcement Officer's Viewpoint on Evidence," and moulage and placards will be discussed and demonstrated by Special Agent Julius H. Rice.

J. E. Thornton, special agent in charge of the Portland office of the FBI, announced that the discussion also will cover national defense tendencies and activities in Oregon, and that an open forum will be held.

Bombing Mistake Costs 800 Lives

LONDON, March 26 (UP)—More than 800 persons were killed and 1,000 injured in a mistaken bombing of The Hague, Dutch capital, by RAF planes March 3, it was revealed today.

The RAF planes were attempting to attack rocket-launching sites but their bombs fell wide of the mark and hit the heavily populated civilian area.

Austria Border Cracks

Japs Assert Battle Rages For Okinawa

GUAM, Tuesday, Mar. 27 (UP)—Tokyo said today Japanese garrisons have counter-attacked "violently" against American troops landing under heavy bombardment in the Okinawa island group of the Ryukyu chain, only 280 miles from Japan proper.

The enemy who has been conducting carrier attacks against the Okinawa island group since March 24 has finally begun landing operations under cover of heavy bombardment at 7 o'clock, March 26, said the Japanese radio.

"Japanese garrisons were dealing violent counter-attacks upon the invaders."

Reports Unconfirmed

There was no American confirmation of the various Tokyo reports of U. S. amphibious operations in the Ryukyus, but this latest announcement broadcast shortly before 12 noon (PWT) indicated for the first time that American invaders may have established beachheads in the Okinawas.

In a series of early conflicting broadcasts, Tokyo said landings were being "attempted," and that Japanese garrisons had "prevented the landing of so much as a single American soldier."

The enemy reported that 2,000 American invasion troops were storming two and perhaps three tiny islands in the Okinawas in a major amphibious leap toward the Japanese homeland.

Thirteen aircraft carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 32 destroyers and other smaller craft were supporting the invasion. See TOKYO... Page 3

Government Move Expected to Balk Miners' Walkout

WASHINGTON, March 26 (UP)—Solid Fuels Administrator Harold L. Ickes today called on the United Mine Workers and soft coal mine operators to work until May 1 under terms of their present wage contract which expires at midnight Saturday.

Ickes proposed that the miners be operated during April with the understanding that if a new contract is agreed upon, whatever benefits it contains be made retroactive to April 1.

He said it was "unthinkable that there should be any suspension of coal production at this time."

WASHINGTON, March 26 (UP)—The soft coal wage controversy entered its most crucial phase today with mounting signs that the government will step in at any moment to prevent a strike.

The present contract between the mine operators and John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers expires Saturday and there is almost no hope a new one can be negotiated in the six days remaining. "No contract, no work" has been the motto of the UMW in the past.

The miners' readiness to follow that principle this time will be tested day after tomorrow when they take a strike vote under supervision of the national labor relations board. The government, however, has set up machinery to seize the mines to prevent a work stoppage.

The government may step in even before the vote is taken. Howard T. Colvin, acting director of the U. S. conciliation service, conferred with both parties at the closing session last week and indicated that government intervention might come after today's session.

Hitler Aides Are Called Into Special Meeting, Warned to be Ready for Unfortunate News

LONDON, March 26 (UP)—A Zurich dispatch said today that Adolf Hitler has called an emergency meeting of his ministers and gauleiters (district leaders) for tonight at Berchtesgaden.

Subject matter of the conference was not disclosed, the dispatch said, but it quoted a German war office spokesman as saying that Germany "must be prepared for unfortunate news."

The dispatch, distributed by the Exchange Telegraph agency, said the plans for the meeting were disclosed by an "unquestionable source." Ministers and gauleiters will be transported to Hitler's Bavarian retreat by plane, it said.

Reports reaching Sweden from Berlin said the Nazi capital was more jittery and tense than at any time since the invasion of Normandy. Travelers arriving at Malmoe from Germany said the nightly air raids were driving Berliners "to dementia."

Lions Take Lead In United Nations Clothing Drive

Horace Nelson, president of the La Grande Lions club, today announced the club will sponsor the nationwide United Nations clothing collection, opening April 1, and will seek the co-operation of other organizations in collecting clothing for the peoples of liberated countries of the United Nations.

Nelson announced the appointment of A. B. (Spud) Olson as general chairman of the campaign.

Thursday Meeting Called

Olson announced a meeting of representatives of local civic, fraternal, religious and other groups will be held in the city hall at 7 o'clock Thursday evening to plan the program.

The drive, which has as its objective the collection of 150,000-200,000 pounds of clothing, will continue through April 30, and plans for the local effort will be announced following the Thursday meeting.

Clothing of all types for all ages and sexes are needed, along with bedding and shoes, as well as serviceable pieces of cloth of various kinds and one yard or more in length.

Assisting Olson in arrangements for the campaign are the following committeemen: from the Lions club:

A. K. Parker, George Tibb, Dr. C. L. Gilstrap, A. M. Serle, L. A. Bohnenkamp, S. H. Weimer, William Harvey, Gordon Capps, J. L. White, D. W. Hall and Ralph Jones.

Olson said the committee will be increased as soon as personnel from other organizations is selected.

Habitual Criminal Charge is Heard

Circuit Judge R. J. Green denied a motion for a new trial for George Durham, convicted of being a felon in possession of firearms, and Durham was charged with being an habitual criminal.

Boone Cason of Portland, counsel for the defense, asked the court to pronounce sentence.

The court overruled the application and ordered that Durham be arraigned on the habitual criminal charge. Durham refused to answer whether or not he is the same man listed in the information read, and Judge Green said his trial probably will be set in about a month.

'Captured' Flyer Makes Prisoners Of 120 Captors

WITH BRITISH SECOND ARMY IN GERMANY, March 26 (UP)—An RAF wing commander who was shot down during the Rhine crossing told today how he captured a German commander and 120 soldiers playing cards while the battle raged around them.

The officer said he managed to land on an island near the river when a German popped his head from a dugout and called him inside where they were playing cards.

The German commander asked the RAF officer to surrender and said he would take him to West.

"When I told him West had been captured, he changed his mind and said, 'Well, surrender to you then!'" the officer related.

The Germans gave him their best bed and the next morning he paddled a canoe back across the river and asked Scottish troops to get his prisoners.

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Reds Push Big Drive To Vienna

LONDON, March 26 (UP)—The Red army tonight cracked the Hron river line defending western Slovakia and Austria today on a 45-mile front, throwing in three army groups to pound the southern back door to the reich.

The Red army seized several bridgeheads across the Hron, including the vital communications center of Banská Bystrica, 130 miles from Vienna and only 96 miles from the Austrian frontier.

The third Ukrainian army, a Soviet order of the day reported, has captured two more Austrian border bastions.

They were the cities of Pupa and Deveser in Hungary. Pupa is 75 miles southeast of Vienna and 32 miles from the Austrian frontier. Deveser is 87 miles southeast of Vienna and 43 miles from Austria.

Nazi Bastion Bypassed Southward on a 45-mile front to Leva on the Czech-Hungarian frontier the Red army had driven to within 96 miles of the Austrian capital of Vienna. Farther south they had bypassed the stronghold of Goer and were on 35 miles from the Austrian frontier and 75 miles southeast of Vienna.

Announcement that a third Russian army group had joined the second and third Ukrainian armies in the blow against the southeastern approaches to the reich was made by German military commentators.

1,000,000 Reds in Battle The new assault widened the offensive front to at least 130 miles and put well over 1,000,000 Russian troops on the march in a determined bid to thwart the German drive.

See RED ARMY... Page 3

Irrigation Water Forecast Session To Be Held Here

W. T. Frost, associate hydraulic engineer of the soil conservation service announced today that the annual irrigation meeting for this section will be held in the La Grande city hall at 10 a. m. April 3.

Water masters, irrigation district officials, forest service men, power company representatives and county agents and others interested will discuss the factors which go into the final forecast of irrigation water prospects for the district.

Frost's announcement said preliminary reports on water conditions have not been favorable, although late March storms added materially to the snow pack in some sections of the state.

Four Are Injured As Convicts Riot

SAN QUENTIN, Cal., March 26 (UP)—Four men were injured in a small-scale riot involving some 30 convicts in San Quentin prison mess hall yesterday.

The disturbance started when an apple was thrown at a table at which white and negro convicts were seated together. The apple was followed by a hail of cutlery, tin cups and dishes.

Some 2,500 inmates were in the hall at the time. Six guards on duty quelled the outbreak by firing shots over the rioters' heads into the walls.

Warden Clinton Duffy said that the prison for the past week had been following an anti-disturbance policy suggested but said he did not believe there was necessarily any connection between the free-for-all and the new policy.



SMILES OF SATISFACTION—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (left), supreme commander of allied forces, with Gen. George S. Patton, commanding general of outstanding Third army, smile with evident satisfaction as they enter the city of Wuerzburg, "somewhere on the western front." Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

American Bombers Smash Jap Industry on Formosa

MANILA, March 26 (UP)—Liberator bombers were believed today to have paralyzed all enemy war production in two-thirds of Formosa by shattering the island's big Jitsugetsu hydro-electric plant.

More than 50 Liberators and escorting Lightnings from the fifth air force hit the hydro-electric installations Friday with 145 tons of explosives which wrecked the power plant and transformers.

A communique said the raid left "water pouring from the penstocks" and a spokesman estimated the attack knocked out 75 per cent of Formosa's hydro-electric generating capacity.

"The whole southern two-thirds of Formosa and its war industries will be very seriously hampered and perhaps even cut off," a fifth air force staff member said following a study of reconnaissance photographs.

"All southern Formosa will suffer an enforced blackout and its industry an enforced layoff," he said. "The probability of repair is out of the question because all transformer stations were destroyed and generator stages in the plants received a number of direct hits by 2,000-pound bombs."

The plant, which was divided into two sections and was powered by water from Jitsugetsu lake, had a total capacity of 170,000 kilowatts.

One Liberator was lost to anti-aircraft fire in the Jitsugetsu raid, which was the second 14-ton strike in two days on Formosa.

While the fifth air force was concentrating on the island fortress, search and patrol planes of the seventh fleet ranged over the China sea to continue the blockade of Japan's shipping lanes. Six freighters were sunk or probably destroyed and a destroyer escort and three freighters damaged in the latest sweeps Friday.

Nazi War Plants, Transport Blasted

LONDON, March 26 (UP)—More than 300 fortresses of the Eighth U. S. air force attacked a synthetic oil plant and refinery at Zeitz and a self-propelled iron and armored vehicle plant at Plauen today.

American Liberators and fortresses also bombed communication points in Austria and Hungary in the path of the Russian drive along the Danube.

Mustang-fighter planes strafed the area around Vienna, destroying 31 locomotives and shooting down five enemy planes.

Divorce is Sought By February Bride

Nettie Knapp filed suit Saturday for divorce from J. C. Knapp, charging cruel and inhuman treatment. They were married February 6, 1945, in Humboldt county, Nevada.

The complaint charges Knapp misrepresented his financial condition and asked for the restoration of her former name, Nettie Coles.

Good Friday Program Climaxes Local Observance of Holy Week

La Grande churches and the local high school are observing Holy week with a number of activities to be climaxed with a Good Friday service in the First Baptist church with a program planned by the Ministerial association.

The Girls' League of La Grande high school this week are sponsoring church services in the high school each school day from 7:10 to 8:20 a. m., with a different minister conducting the services each morning.

Good Friday services will be observed by La Grande business houses which will close from 12:45 to 2 p. m., Friday, during the Good Friday services at the Baptist church. Schools also will close for the day.

The program will open with music by school instrumentalists, under the direction of O. P. Weigel.

The program service, opening at 1 p. m. will be as follows: Call to worship, W. B. Starnes, president of laymen of the La Grande churches; responsive reading Ps. 34; invocation; hymn, Rev. R. E. Stanley Hunt; vocal solo, Mrs. Rella Ehlers; scripture, Mark 15:1-20; Rev. O. A. Crofford.

Hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross," scripture, Luke 23:26-46; Rev. R. W. Tomerassen; silent meditation; prayer, Rev. Mark A. Talney; message, Rev. B. Ross Evans; hymn, "Near the Cross"; benediction, Rev. I. S. Motz; piano postlude.