



# La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Wallowa Counties

**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours ending 7 a. m.  
Temperatures:  
Maximum ..... 53  
Minimum ..... 36  
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday; probable light showers.

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 28, 1945

FIVE CENTS

## "Sensational" U. S. Gains Hinted

### Soviets Batter at Gates of Vienna

#### Reds Press Drive in South To Join U.S. Army; Gydnia Falls to Northern Forces

LONDON, March 28 (UP) — Russian troops under the command of Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky have captured the western part of the city of Danzig, a Russian communique said today.

LONDON, March 28 (UP) — The Red army cracked the last Nazi defense lines protecting southeast Austria today and swept up to within 12 miles of the border and 55 miles of Vienna.

A special order of the day by Marshal Stalin tonight announced the capture of Gydnia and Komarom, the Nazi keystones to the defense to the Lake Ballaton approach to Austria.

Stalin also announced the capture by Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's third Ukrainian army of Sarvar and Csorna in the northwest corner of Hungary, 65 and 55 miles respectively from Vienna.

Tolbukhin's forces were across the Raba river, the last barrier to their entry into Austria.

#### German Leaders Flee Southward To Escape Allies

LONDON, March 28 (UP) — European reports said today that prominent Germans, including Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Adolf Hitler's personal physician, were fleeing south toward the Alps and the Swiss border to escape allied armies.

The reports followed increasing evidence that victory in Europe was approaching, though how soon it will come no authority would hazard a guess.

The London News-Chronicle said the British war cabinet was "standing by" for Germany's collapse.

A Brussels broadcast heard by the Exchange Telegraph agency said Ribbentrop and 125 personnel of the German foreign office had arrived at Lake Constance on the Swiss border. With them, the broadcast said, was Dr. Ferdinand Sauerbruch, Hitler's personal physician.

Another Exchange Telegraph See GERMANS ... Page 5

#### Local Supervisor Of OPA Resigns

Harley H. Richardson, local district supervisor of the office of price administration, today announced his resignation, effective April 15.

Richardson has been connected with the OPA for three years, having first served as district manager of the eastern Oregon office which was opened in La Grande in June, 1942. When the district office was closed, Richardson was transferred to the war price and rationing division, with which he has been employed to the present time as local board supervisor for Union, Baker and Wallowa counties.

He said today he has made no definite plans for the future.

#### Country Swelters as Old Sol Goes On Unseasonable Rampage

By United Press

The sunshine special was due for another tour of most of the country today, putting the March lion to flight and sending the mercury soaring to unseasonable heights.

The weather today will be widely sunny and unseasonably warm, the federal weather forecaster in Chicago predicted cheerfully.

However, he said yesterday's record will not be shattered for a few days at least, and a general cooling effect will be felt late today with the mercury sinking to 42 degrees in the midwest tonight. The usual March snowstorm was predicted for parts of North Dakota and Minnesota.

Temperatures throughout the nation yesterday ranged from a high of 91 at Laredo, Tex., to 29 in western North Dakota. Chicago recorded a top of 62 degrees, the highest for any

**Gydnia is Taken**  
At the same time Soviet forces completed the occupation of the Polish port of Gydnia, last substantial Polish city that remained in German hands and took 9,000 prisoners.

Moscow dispatches for the first time spoke of the Vienna drive as aimed at an ultimate junction with the forces of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton which already have spearheaded halfway to the Czech border across southern Germany.

At the same time major fighting was reported on the Oder line where the Nazis claimed they were trying to drive a corridor through to German elements which they claimed were still existing inside Kuestrin, 38 miles east of Berlin.

The Vienna-bound drive coincided with new and extremely heavy Soviet attacks on the Oder river line, centering around Kuestrin, 38 miles east of Berlin.

Nazi accounts admitted Soviet penetrations at Kuestrin where they claimed an encircled garrison still was holding out.

The Russians were mopping up in Gydnia and Danzig and expected to complete occupation of the Baltic cities today or tomorrow. Russian accounts said that the remaining defenders largely were poorly trained marine battalions, including many boys and elderly men.

It was estimated that the Red army had captured about 100,000 prisoners in the past week's fighting, principally around Koenigsberg and in northwestern Hungary.

#### Income Tax Expert Aids Taxpayers

Assistance in preparation of state income tax reports, is being provided residents of La Grande and vicinity by John Parker, representative of the state income tax bureau.

Parker will be at the county treasurer's office in the courthouse all day tomorrow and Friday, and until noon on Saturday.

#### New Ration Stamps Are Valid Sunday

Five new red stamps, worth 10 points each for a total of 50 red points, have been validated for the April rationing period, Frederic P. Janney, OPA rationing executive, announced. They are K2, L2, M2, N2, and P2. They are good from April 1 through July 31.

Five new blue stamps, each worth 10 points, also valid until July 31, are T2, U2, V2, W2, and X2. They also are good through July 31.

Four sets of the red and blue stamps may be used during each rationing period. Each set is good for about four months, the first set going out of use when the fifth becomes good.

Another sugar stamp will become good on May 1, providing an overlap of one month.

## Jap Homeland Attacked

### Invaders Sweep Through Japanese Defenses on Cebu

#### Enemy Destroys Capital as Yanks Approach

MANILA, March 28 (UP) — American invasion forces swept over Cebu today to within two and a half miles of burning Cebu City, capital of the central Philippines island.

Elements of the American division, which landed on the mine-strewn beach at Talisay on the east coast Monday, were battling the Japanese garrison at Pardo just south of the capital. Cebu City is the second largest port in the Philippines.

Huge fires were reported out of control in Cebu City and the Japanese apparently were following their theme of destruction, which devastated Manila and other island capitals in the archipelago.

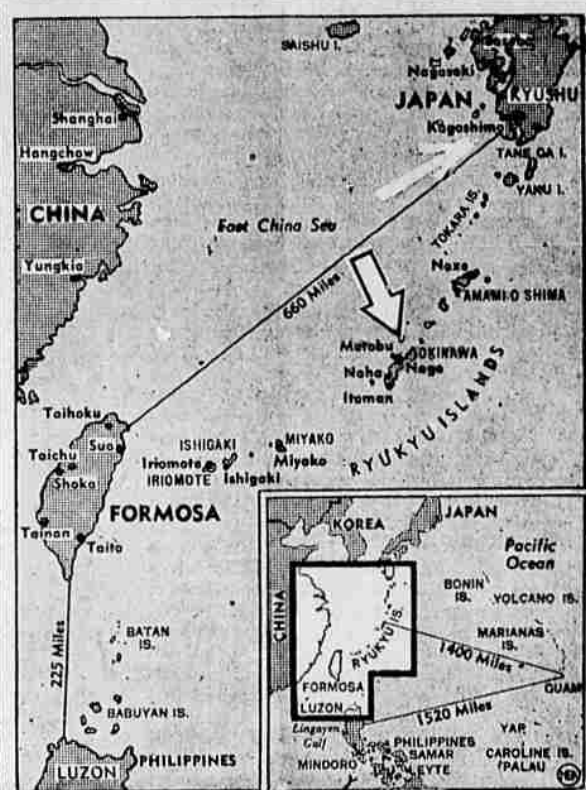
A naval bombardment from cruisers and destroyers covered the landing by Maj. Gen. W. H. Arnold's veterans of Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

Japs Surprised  
Although the Japanese were caught off guard by the invasion, the shallow beaches were mined and the assault troops ran into mortar fire from the Talisay area, five miles south of Cebu City.

Bombers and fighters of the 13th air force joined the drive and blasted a path for the ground forces as they cut across the narrow gauge rail line and moved onto the hard-surface road paralleling the coast.

Villages Captured  
Five small villages were swept up and a stubborn Japanese pocket was knocked out nearly two miles north of Talisay in the drive which carried to the town of Pardo, two and a half miles south of Cebu City.

Cebu City is just across a narrow bay from the mainland. See INVADERS ... Page 5



**JAP HOMELAND UNDER ATTACK** — Tokyo radio today said U. S. navy ships and planes joined in the Ryukyu islands after spearheading an invasion of the Okinawa islands. Previously Tokyo reported that carrier planes raided Kagoshima and Miyazaki on Kyushu, southernmost home island of Japan and that the Kerama islands, 380 miles to the south, were under attack by invasion forces. Points of the chief activities are indicated on the map.

#### San Francisco Is Hardest Hit by Shortage of Meat

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28 (UP) — Meat supplies in San Francisco continued to be the lowest on the Pacific coast up to March 15, William A. Bledsoe, regional director of the bureau of labor statistics of the U. S. department of labor, announced today.

The report showed 54 per cent of independent food stores in San Francisco had no beef steaks or roasts, 46 per cent had no beef of any kind, 79 per cent were out of veal and 99 per cent had no pork loins or hams.

In Portland, 90 per cent of the stores had ample stocks of beef, but 67 per cent had no veal and 69 per cent had no bacon. Thirteen per cent had no pork loins or hams.

Almost every type of meat was available in Seattle, the report said. Latest reports, however, from the Washington state meat dealers' association, said the shortage finally had hit the city. About 80 per cent of the national supply is now available to housewives.

In Los Angeles, 90 per cent of the stores had ample beef but 84 per cent of retail outlets had no veal and 75 per cent were without pork.

Margarine and butter supplies were ample in San Francisco, Portland, however, reported that 46 per cent of their independent stores were out of margarine. In Los Angeles, 67 per cent of the retailers had no shortening, lard and cooking oil supplies. In Los Angeles also were low.

#### Food Preservation Meetings to Aid Home Gardeners

Thomas Ornsdorff of the food industries department of Oregon State college, will be in Union county Thursday and Friday to hold three public meetings on the preservation of food in connection with the victory garden program.

He will discuss preparation of food for freezing, best varieties for canning and freezing, canning in tin and in glass, and freezing temperatures.

The schedule for the meetings is: Union, Thursday, 2 p. m. high school auditorium; Elgin, Thursday, 8 p. m. high school auditorium; La Grande, Friday, 2 p. m. Sacaajawa hotel.

In the Elgin meeting Ornsdorff will discuss "The Commercial Frozen Food Industry," and at the other meetings he will discuss preservation of foods for home consumption.

#### Alcohol's Place in War Effort Told

Gordon Teach was guest speaker at La Grande Rotary club luncheon today in the IOOF hall. He spoke on industrial alcohol and the importance of the industry in connection with the war effort.

Guests were Ralph Nelson, a recent arrival in La Grande, and State Senator Rex Ellis of Salem. Lynn Larson was appointed as chairman of the group to work in cooperation with the Lions club on the alcohol drive which will be conducted during the month of April.

#### Quintuplets Die Soon After Birth

WASHINGTON, March 28 (UP) — The last of a set of quintuplets born to a negro mother here last night died early today.

Miss Adda Turner, 36, is the mother of the five girls. The father, Harold Turner, 36, is a clerk at the U. S. bureau of standards here. The couple has six other children, including four-year-old twins.

#### Industrial Peace Plan for Post-War Era Promulgated

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (UP) — Three top labor and industry leaders today announced a proposed charter for a "practical partnership" of labor and management to insure industrial peace after the war.

A seven-point plan was made public at a joint press conference by E. A. Johnson of Spokane, president of the U. S. chamber of commerce; CIO President Philip Murray, and AFL President William Green.

Under the proposed code of principles, the right of labor to organize and engage in collective bargaining would be recognized and protected.

The code also would recognize and preserve the "inherent right and responsibility" of management to direct the operations of an enterprise.

#### Methodist Church Leader Stricken

CONDON, Ore., March 28 (UP) — Rev. Silas E. Fairham, of Salem, Cascade district superintendent of the Methodist church, is under a doctor's care here today suffering a partial paralytic stroke while visiting churches under his supervision.

He was stricken while driving near Condon. He will be moved to Salem in a few days.

Rev. Fairham was pastor of the Gresham Methodist church prior to his appointment as superintendent of the district, which embraces 60 Methodist churches in southern, central and eastern Oregon.

## Kyushu, Ryukyu Assailed

GUAM, Thursday, March 29 (UP) — Japan today claimed naval surface and air battles have been joined in waters of the Ryukyu chain and reported, wholly without allied confirmation, that "grim" fighting was raging between reinforced American invasion troops and Japanese garrisons on two islands west of Okinawa.

"Around Okinawa, that new sea of battle, the American task force is dwindling in strength day by day," Tokyo reported later. "We are counter-attacking by air, land and sea."

The enemy said intense air attacks forced American warships to "retire to the sea towards evening" after shelling the Okinawas during the daytime.

Counter-attacks Reported  
Tokyo radio said that Japanese "air and surface vessels are now unleashing fierce counter-attacks" against the American naval task groups which have pounded the strategic Okinawas, 380 miles south of Japan proper for five consecutive days.

There was no evidence from an allied source to support Japanese claims of surface and naval attacks or American invasions on Tokoshika or Aka islands in the Kerama group guarding the western approaches to Okinawa, largest and most strategically important island of the Ryukyu chain.

U. S. Fleet Sooks Battle  
If the Japanese fleet has ventured forth to challenge Vice Admiral Marc C. Mitscher's fifth fleet carrier task forces, it would be the first time the enemy's navy has risked battle since its See TOKYO ... Page 5

#### Union County Men Wounded, Captured

The wounding of one soldier from Union county and the capture of another by the Germans are reported today in casualty lists released by the office of war information for the war department.

Listed as wounded in the fighting in the European area is Pfc. George E. Evans, whose next of kin is listed as his wife, Dorothy M. Evans of 1400 Q street, La Grande.

Pvt. Orval O. Johnson, the son of Robert G. Johnson of Union, is among those captured by the enemy on the Western front.

In both of these cases, as in all other cases, the war and navy departments, the next of kin were notified before the information was made available for publication.

#### War Plant Idle In Labor Dispute

DETROIT, March 28 (UP) — Approximately 2,500 employees of the Packard Motor car co., a focal point of senate investigation into war production, struck today.

The company announced that the walkout would halt its output of aircraft engine marine engines by tonight.

The strike followed discharge of a CIO union steward, accused by the company of refusing to permit another union representative to make a study of time required for picking operations.

The Packard plant was brought into the national labor spotlight recently when members of the senate committee investigating war production discovered a workman asleep at the assembly line.

#### Enemy Drive In Hupei Is Stalled

CHUNGKING, March 28 (UP) — The Japanese drive against the air base town of Laohokow in southwestern Hupei province still was stalled today by Chinese counterattacks and bombing and strafing sweeps by planes of the U. S. 14th air force.

Enemy troops have been unable to capture the highly strategic junction city of Nanyang, which they must hold before proceeding toward Laohokow. They were halted Monday after fighting into Icheng, 50 miles from their objective.

A 14th air force communique reported that Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault's pilots struck against 1,500 miles of Japanese operational fronts Monday and Tuesday. Liberators, escorted by Mustang and Warhawk fighters, continued to hammer enemy columns aiming at Laohokow.

## Shattered Defenses Swept Aside in Race After Fleeing Enemy

WITH U. S. FOURTH ARMORED DIVISION, March 28 (UP) — Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's fourth armored division is on the loose tonight and is striking north on the roads that lead toward Kassel and the heart of the greater Reich.

PARIS, March 28 (UP) — Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's tank spearheads tonight were reported by the Germans a scant 200 miles from Berlin and front reports said the situation was so fluid that sensational unreported gains might be going on behind a security blackout.

The latest report on Patton's spearheads came from radio Berlin which placed them at Hammelburg, 204 miles southwest of Berlin, and apparently still travelling fast.

At that point Patton was only 280 miles from a juncture with the Russians across the middle Oder. Russian correspondents already were talking of Soviet advances to join with Patton's forces.

On the U. S. first army front a partial blackout was imposed on news with the situation described as "the most fluid imaginable."

#### U. S. First Army HQ, March 28 (UP) — A strong first army column is driving southward to reinforce the U. S. third army, it was said tonight but nothing more regarding this may be revealed.

An estimated 6,000 German troops, most of them belonging to a panzer division, have been trapped by the southbound column east of the Rhine.

It was likely the panzers would put up a fight before surrendering.

#### Before the security blackout came down first army spearheads were reported at Bellhausen, 209 miles from Berlin. They were meeting little or no organized German resistance.

To the north the British Second and the American Ninth armies threw their powerful armored forces into play and streaked in parallel columns across the top of the Ruhr into the open plains leading to Berlin only 245 miles or less to the east.

Airmen reported armored spearheads far ahead of reported positions of the British 2nd army.

Bitter-enders Fight On  
The Third army entered Wiesbaden just north of the Rhine from Mainz where some Germans had been holding out and cleared half of Frankfurt from bitter-enders who still were fighting. The Third also sent a spearhead 27 miles north from Frankfurt to within six miles of another juncture with the First army at Giessen.

Patton's advanced armored columns were still blacked-out for security reasons but at least one German report said they had See ALLIED ARMIES ... Page 5

## Captors Hold Hitler's Fate

LONDON, March 28 (UP) — Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told commons today that Adolf Hitler, the major war criminal, could be held by British soldiers for themselves whether to shoot him on sight or bring him back alive.

Eden said that Hitler, as the major war criminal under the Moscow declaration, will be punished by joint action of the allies if captured.

Eden was asked by Ivan Thomas, labor member, whether it would be the duty of the British soldier who catches Hitler to shoot him on sight or bring him back alive.

Eden said: "I am very content to leave that to the judgment of any British soldier."

## Big Allied Drive Looms in Italy

ROME, March 28 (UP) — A dazzling rain played activity on the Italian front although fifth and eighth army patrols maintained contact with the enemy headquarters said today.

The London radio said today that Gen. Mark W. Clark, allied commander in Italy, had broadened instructions to Italian patriots in German-occupied zones to prepare for aiding an allied landing drive which will sooner or later develop on a large scale.

Fifth army patrols in the central sector south of Florence reported that several areas where sharp fighting had occurred recently were now clear of the enemy.

## Bravery of Allied Prisoners Saves Them From Own Planes

By JOHN B. McDERMOTT, U. P. War Correspondent

WITH THE U. S. FIRST ARMY IN GERMANY, March 28 (UP) — A thousand American and British soldiers who had been captured by the Germans stood in the sunlight for six hours with their naked backs spelling out in giant letters POW — Prisoners of war.

They were attempting to save themselves from their friends — pilots of P-47s who were diving and strafing under the mistaken impression that they were shooting at Germans.

I heard the story today of one of the strangest incidents of the war from an American lieutenant who talked from a stretcher in a hospital. The quick thinking of the officers who ordered the men to strip off their shirts and get in formation to spell out the letters POW saved many lives.

So did the bravery of the prisoners, most of whom held their formation in the face of expert and terrifying dive bombing. Out of all the men who were in the formation, only one broke and ran for cover, the lieutenant said.

Eventually the allied pilots got the signal that was being flashed to them from the naked backs down below. But they didn't get it until some of the prisoners were killed and some, including the lieutenant whose See PRISONERS ... Page 5