

Allied Split of Reich Is Imminent

La Grande Evening Observer

HOME OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1945

FIVE CENTS

U.S. Armada Hits Okinawa

Invasion Expected By Japs

GUAM, Friday, March 30 (UP)—Tokyo reported today 500 American carrier aircraft including jet planes raided Kyushu and Shikoku islands of Japan proper yesterday while a fleet of American transports and warships converged "from all directions" on invasion-threatened Okinawa island, 70-mile-long bastion of the Ryukyus chain.

A great American naval armada of more than 100 vessels built around ten battleships was reported shelling Okinawa again, while swarms of planes from at least ten carriers continued the almost-constant aerial battering of the air-and-navy base island, enemy broadcasts indicated.

Tokyo claimed the alleged American invasion of the Kerama islands south of Okinawa had been partially crushed and the beachhead troops cut off from their offshore supply ships.

Sixty carrier planes, hitting the south flank of Japan's long chain of islands, struck at Formosa in conjunction with B-29s Thursday, Tokyo reported. Starting at noon, according to this unconfirmed enemy version, planes raided Takao, Tainan, Taichu and Shingchiu.

The enemy claimed that American landing forces on Tokoshika island, west of Okinawa, have been "completely wiped out" by the Japanese garrison using heavy artillery and mortars. Official American sources have

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Clothing Campaign Planning Session Is Postponed

Indefinite postponement of an organizational meeting for the local participation in the United national clothing campaign was announced today by A. B. Olson, chairman of the Lions club committee on preliminary arrangements. The meeting was originally set for tonight in the city hall, but was deferred because of conflicting interests.

Olson announced the appointment of Lynn H. Larson by the Rotary club to serve as co-chairman of the campaign.

He announced that Mrs. L. C. Smith has donated the use of the Smith building on Depot street near Washington avenue for use as a central receiving station, and that arrangements are being made for sub-stations in the churches and schools.

Olson said plans also are being made for pick-ups of bundles of clothing from those who are unable to deliver them. Calls for pick-ups may be made to the chamber of commerce (phone No. 10).

A house-to-house collection of contributions also is being planned.

Ration Point Values are Raised On Pork, Fats; Others Indicated

WASHINGTON, March 29 (UP)—The office of price administration today raised point values of pork, lard, margarine, canned peas and canned asparagus for April. The changes are effective Sunday.

Soviets Take Nazi Hubs

Perkins Proposal May End Threat Of Coal Strike

Secretary Acts As Miners Vote To Quit Pits

WASHINGTON, Mar. 29 (UP)—Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins said today that the United Mine Workers have accepted her proposal for a new soft coal wage-hour contract. The operators, she indicated, may give their answer later today.

If the operators also accept the proposal—details of which Miss Perkins did not supply—it would end the threat of a nationwide mine stoppage when the old contract expires at midnight Saturday.

All Miss Perkins would say about her proposal was that its terms would not violate the government's wage stabilization program. Earlier she had said she had suggested withdrawal of some of the UMW's "cherished demands."

She said the operators had asked for an hour in which to find out "which rates would apply to which people and how the selection of those people should be made to give an increase."

She said this involved shift differentials and the operations in strip mines, in fully mechanized mines, and in hand loading mines.

Miss Perkins' announcement came dramatically at a time when UMW members were ready to strike, if ordered to do so by the union, after the Saturday deadline.

War Worker Home Insurance Revived

WASHINGTON, Mar. 29 (UP)—The federal housing administration today resumed its policy of insuring loans on houses built by private contractors for war workers.

In line with congressional approval of an extension of its war housing insurance powers until July 1, 1946, FHA told its field offices today to go ahead and insure.

Congress also added an extra \$1,000,000 to FHA's insuring fund for war housing. This, FHA said, will permit construction of nearly 22,000 additional units of needed dwelling units for war workers.

La Grande Residents Will Lay Aside Mundane Affairs to Join In Observance of Good Friday

Personal affairs will be laid aside in La Grande tomorrow while the city joins in observance of Good Friday at a union service to be conducted in the First Baptist church under the auspices of the La Grande Ministerial association.

Business houses will be closed from 12:45 to 2 p. m., the hours of the service and the elementary and high schools will suspend classes all day.

Plans Are Begun For Observance Of Music Week

Plans for the local observance of national music week, May 6 to 12, have been launched by the Neighborhood club, with Mrs. A. L. Richardson as chairman of the committee on arrangements.

Tentative plans have been made for four major programs, the first to be in the First Methodist church at 4 p. m., May 6, with Nephthi Combs as chairman.

The second program will be presented May 8 at Eastern Oregon college under the direction of Dr. Henry Ehlers.

Mrs. Richardson is arranging a program for a "civic night" program on May 10, in which local talent will be presented. The place has not yet been selected.

The final major event will be on the evening of May 11, in the high school and will feature the high school band under the direction of Leroy Darling.

Sponsored by many national organizations, national music week this year will have as its theme "Foster American and World Unity Through Music."

Wrecked Capital Of Cebu Island Taken by Yanks

MANILA, March 29 (UP)—American troops captured Cebu's burned and blasted capital city and spared northward today in a drive that may have overrun the Labug airbase.

Cebu city, second largest city in the Philippines, fell to units of the American division which advanced five miles in one day and outflanked elaborate Japanese pillbox fortifications on the capital's western approaches.

The city, once one of the most beautiful in the archipelago, was damaged nearly as badly as Manila. Demolition fires started by the Japanese when the Americans landed Monday, practically wiped out the business district and many residential sections.

The port area was reportedly found undamaged, however, and the excellent harbor, second only to Manila, will be able to accommodate shipping and naval vessels almost immediately.

Gen. MacArthur's communications said enemy resistance in the south and central sectors of Luzon had "definitely abated due to his great losses which can not be replaced." Heavy fighting continued in the northern sector, however, particularly in the Baguio sector and around Baitopass to the southeast.

Allied Navy Units Bombard Germans In Northern Italy

ROME, March 29 (UP)—Allied warships bombarded German positions for four days in northern Italy along the long-dormant Franco-Italian frontier, it was disclosed today.

The naval attacks, coming during the continued hill ground fighting along Italy's Po valley, were carried out by British and French destroyers.

The heaviest bombardment was centered on Porto Maurizio, about 10 miles east of Mentone, which is just inside France at the Italian border.

There have been virtually no reports of any ground activity in that sector since American troops drove northward from the southern France invasion beaches and joined with allied forces that landed in Normandy.

Separation of Ruhr from Central Germany Looms; U.S. Vanguard Is 125 Miles from Czech Border

PARIS, March 29 (UP)—Allied armies started ripping west and central Germany apart today, racing to sever the Ruhr from the central Reich, driving two-thirds of the way to the Czech frontier and pointing spearheads at Kassel and Hannover, 166 and 142 miles respectively from Berlin.

The whole of west central Germany was being chopped up by criss-crossing armored columns rampaging at such speed that headquarters was unable to keep up with their positions.

The British second and American ninth armies were racing eastward under cover of a security blackout in a drive pointed toward Hannover. One report placed them already past Muenster, some 227 miles west of Berlin.

U. S. First Army Gains 40 Miles

The American first army drove 40 miles north from Giessen to Hallenberg 21 miles northwest of Marburg in a surprise race to cut off the eastern connections of the Ruhr and to form a juncture with the 21st army group forces to the north.

The fourth armored division of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army plunged ahead 31 miles on the road to Kassel and Berlin. It reached Lauterbach, 201 miles southwest of Berlin, and 13 miles northwest of Fulda. At this point it was nearing the borders of Thuringia province.

The third army cleared two-thirds of Frankfurt. The third army now holds 8,790 square miles of German territory.

Mannheim, great Rhine industrial city across from Ludwigskafen, was reported to have surrendered without fight as a result of telephone arrangements between the mayor and the American seventh army. It was the first big German town to quit without a stand.

Partial or total security blackouts cloaked allied operations.

But Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's British second and American ninth armies were on the loose in a fast easternward sweep which radio Luxembourg said had carried them beyond Muenster.

Pincers Threaten Nazis

The U. S. first army was developing a pincers threat to the willing Nazis.

One arm of the first army was pointed for Kassel, 166 miles southwest of Berlin.

A second was heading due north, having left Giessen before

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Hitler Reported Planning to Make 'Important Speech'

LONDON, March 29 (UP)—The Evening Standard reported from Lisbon today that Adolf Hitler was expected to make an "important speech" within the next few days.

The report was attributed to the paper's Lisbon correspondent who quoted Argentine diplomatic quarters as his source. He said the speech would be "unusual."

Hope for Jap Peace Move

It added that the Germans had been hoping up to now that Japan would sue for peace first, thus placing the Wehrmacht in a position to demand terms.

LONDON, March 29 (UP)—The German radio tonight broadcast to the German people not to believe sensational rumors that allied tanks have bypassed Nuernberg 128 miles southwest of Berlin, and are driving on Leipzig, 74 miles from the reich capital.

tion to say they didn't lose the war but were let down by their allies.

The report came as Hitler's own paper the Volkischer Beobachter, admitted that the next few weeks will decide the war in Europe.

"We are facing the coming battle without illusions," the newspaper, Volkischer Beobachter, was quoted in a Zurich dispatch as saying while allied armies streamed across western Germany and northwest Hungary.

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38 New Diphtheria Cases Reported

PORTLAND, Ore., March 29 (UP)—There have been 108 reported cases of diphtheria in Oregon since the first of the year, with 38 new cases last week, the largest weekly figure since comparative records were kept starting in 1933, the state board of health reported today.

The state total represents a gain of 39.1 per cent over the 1940-44 median for the period and a gain of 226 per cent over the 1925-34 average.

The 108 cases in the state were distributed among the counties as follows: Baker, 1; Clackamas, 70; Douglas, 8; Jackson, 9; Lane, 1; Multnomah, 16, of which 10 were in Portland; Umatilla, 1; Union, 1; and Washington, 1.

Prisoners Are Missing

MEDFORD, Ore., March 29 (UP)—Two German prisoners of war are missing from Camp White today.

They are Herman Goebel, 25, and Herman Durr, 21.

Gen. Eisenhower to Head Army Government of Reich

WASHINGTON, March 29 (UP)—The White House disclosed today that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower will be the top United States representative on the four-power military government which will run Germany.

The disclosure came obliquely in an announcement that Maj. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, now assistant to Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, has been appointed deputy to Eisenhower to handle civil affairs in occupied Germany.

It added that Clay will take over direction of civil affairs there "when Gen. Eisenhower, as supreme commander, assumes control under the arrangement agreed upon for the occupation of Germany."

The big three announced after their Yalta meeting that administration and control of Germany would be exercised by a commission, with headquarters in Berlin, comprising the supreme military commanders of the United States, Britain, and Russia. They also agreed that France would be invited to participate, and she is expected to do so.

Clay is attached to the army's procurement section. The White House said President Roosevelt believes he is "particularly qualified" to handle the job of "developing an organization for occupied Germany and administering it."

Eisenhower, the White House said, asked for Clay's services three weeks ago.

Marine Who Placed Stars and Stripes On Iwo Is Killed

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., March 29 (UP)—Platoon Sgt. Ernest I. Thomas, Jr., 21, of Tallahassee, the first man to plant the stars and stripes on Iwo Jima's rocky Mt. Suribachi, was killed five days later, his mother has been informed by the marine corps.

Thomas was killed on March 3, his 21st birthday.

Scholarships Are Given to College

Acknowledgment of the renewal of the all-tuition (scholarship) Eastern Oregon college scholarship of Pioneer Flouring Mills by Fred Kiddle was made today by President Robert J. Maguire of the college.

The scholarship of \$74 will be awarded to a high school senior hoping to enter Eastern Oregon college next fall.

Receipt of an all-tuition \$74 scholarship from Mrs. F. H. Bingaman of Alsea, also was announced by Maguire.

Howard and Maxine, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bingaman, are students at the college.

La Grande Girl Is Speech Winner

Both Barlow, La Grande high school student, today was announced as the winner of the district semi-finals of the annual national oratorical contest sponsored by the American Legion. The runner-up was Earl McClelland of Boardman, Ore.

The subject of the orations was "The Constitution of the United States."

Miss Barlow will enter the state final to be held in Portland, the winner of which will compete in the national contest.

Rationing of Baby Shoes is Extended

WASHINGTON, March 29 (UP)—The office of price administration today extended shoe rationing to include infants shoe sizes 0 to 4. Previously only infants shoes size 4 1/2 to 8 were rationed.

OPA said the fact that the smaller sizes were unrationed, created an "overexpanded" demand for them. Rationing, the agency added, would lower the demand and permit more facilities to be devoted to the more essential larger sizes.

Weather

Dr. for 24 hours ending at 7

Temperatures:

Maximum 50

Minimum 31

Precipitation .08

Forecast: Clear tonight and Friday.