

Invasion Of Jap Homeland Looms

La Grande Evening Observer

Weather
Data for 24 hours ending at 7 a. m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 56
Minimum 28
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Danzig Is Captured By Soviets Resistance of Germany Crumbles Hordes of Prisoners Are Taken by Allies As Rout Increases

LONDON, March 30 (UP) — Radio Luxembourg tonight broadcast that there is no longer a coherent German front and that "there are only separate fighting zones" with allied troops meeting but weak resistance.

PARIS, March 30 (UP) — American tank columns were within a few miles of completely severing the Ruhr against light resistance, a security blackout prevented pinpointing the advance but one report was that they gained 30 miles which would put them abreast of the east Ruhr center of Hamm, 227 miles west of Berlin.

The American ninth army broke loose today, shaking its tank columns free for a long gain across the top of the Ruhr against light resistance, a security blackout prevented pinpointing the advance but one report was that they gained 30 miles which would put them abreast of the east Ruhr center of Hamm, 227 miles west of Berlin.

Prisoners swarmed into the American prisoners cages with a bag of perhaps 70,000 in the past 48 hours by the first and third American armies. The third army reported it had put 230,000 Germans out of action since crossing the Moselle, including 140,142 captured.

Unconfirmed reports broadcast by the London radio said beaten, dispirited Germans were surrendering at the rate of 2,000 an hour today.

Coupled with the capture of more than 33,000 nazis by the U. S. first and third armies alone yesterday, that indicated a bag of perhaps 70,000 enemy troops by all allied armies in 48 hours—and the break-up of Germany's armies in the west.

E. C. Sammons Is Named Financial Institution Head

PORTLAND, Ore., March 30 (UP)—The United States national bank of Portland, one of the largest banking institutions in the nation, today elected Edward C. Sammons, manufacturer and war loan drive head, as president.

Several other bank posts were shifted. Paul S. Dick, longtime president, became chairman of the board of directors. Alexander M. Wright retired as first vice president but remained on the board of directors. Abbot L. Mills, Jr., a vice president and director, became first vice president.

Sammons is vice president of the Iron Fireman manufacturing company, a post he will resign but remain a director. He is Oregon chairman of the war loan drive.

The parent bank and four branches are in Portland, with 22 other branches in Oregon, including one in La Grande, and an associate bank in Vancouver, Wash. Its combined assets are in excess of \$472,000,000, ranking it 32nd in deposits among all the banks of the country.

230,000 Germans Killed, Captured By Patton's Army

THIRD AMERICAN ARMY GHQ, March 30 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton in a communique issued today that since crossing the Moselle the Third army has put out of action an estimated 230,000 German troops.

The Third army has captured 140,142 Germans and killed or wounded an estimated 90,000 more. It has captured 6,484 square miles of territory and 3,072 cities and towns.

Nazis Pin Hopes for Escape From Defeat on New Rocket

PORTLAND, Ore., March 30 (UP) — A tiny gadget which could be placed in a rocket bomb is the last secret weapon of the Germans, a threat so powerful that the nazis are confident it will wipe out civilization and save them from defeat.

This was revealed by Jacob von Berkel, member of the Dutch underground in Germany for four years.

Using an assumed name to protect his identity, von Berkel said the Germans are saving the new secret weapon until the leaders have time to retreat to the Bavarian Alps where a last stand has been planned for two years.

Controversy Looms Over Security Pact Of 'Big Three'

U. S. Delegates Are Critical of Extra Vote Agreement

WASHINGTON, March 30 (UP)—The big three's secret agreement on extra votes for Russia and the United States in the world assembly pointed clearly today to a bitter fight between the big and little nations at the San Francisco conference.

It is certain to stir up a violent controversy among the American public and to split the U. S. delegation on the eve of the conference to create a world organization for keeping the peace.

U-Boats Taken by Red Army

LONDON, March 30 (UP)—Russian forces captured the former free port of Danzig on the Baltic today while other Red army troops were reported sweeping along five highways south of the Danube in a drive on the Austrian capital of Vienna.

Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's Soviet troops cleared Danzig of enemy troops and are in "complete possession," Marshal Stalin said in an order of the day announcing the city's capture.

The conquering Russians seized 10,000 prisoners and 45 U-boats in the port area, Stalin announced.

The order of the day said that the Polish national flag had been raised over the city.

30 Miles from Vienna
Russian forces driving into Austria for Vienna were reported only 30 miles from the Austrian capital at Sopron which was reported besieged.

Marshal Stalin announced in his third order of the day that Soviet troops, driving west of Lake Balaton, have captured Zalaegerszeg, 20 miles from Austria, and other west Hungarian cities protecting the Nagykanizsa oil basin.

The German high command admitted the fall of Danzig and Gdynia.

The Germans, however, claimed the Soviet drive into Austria had been halted.

At Sopron the Russians were only 18 miles from the huge Austrian manufacturing and war center of Wiener Neustadt, often a target for American heavy bombers, and the rail lines linking Vienna and Budapest.

Yanks Bottle Up Approaches To Big Cebu Harbor

MANILA, March 30 (UP)—Elements of the American division secured the approaches to Cebu's big harbor in the central Philippines today with invasions of nearby Caut and Maclan islands.

The main city of Opon on Maclan island, where Magellan died in the 16th century, was seized by the assault troops while tiny Caut, a former seaplane base just outside Cebu city's harbor, was completely occupied.

The islands were the 29th and 30th invaded by American forces in the Philippines.

At the same time other units of the American division continued to fan out on Cebu island against only disorganized Japanese resistance.

MacArthur's communique said there was only minor action in the ground campaign on Luzon, in the northern Philippines, where an additional 1,338 Japanese bodies were counted in the mopping up operations east of Manila.

Mitchell medium bombers and fighter planes continued steady attacks on enemy positions throughout Luzon and Liberators dumped another 200 tons of explosives at Legaspi, on the southeastern tip of the island.

Trial Is Set for Much Married Vilma

SACRAMENTO, Mar. 30 (UP)—Federal Judge Martin I. Welsh today set for April 10 the trial of Mrs. Vilma Suberly, 26, who the FBI says acquired at least eight husbands without a comparable number of divorces on two charges of using the mails to defraud.

Mrs. Suberly pleaded not guilty to causing two governments to issue checks from husbands in the armed forces. Welsh overruled two motions by her attorney, Irving D. Gibson, to dismiss the charges on grounds "the indictment does not show the defendant has committed any crime."

Sanity of Carbar Lothario Undecided

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30 (UP)—The sanity trial of Ethel Carbar Lothario, who has been convicted on three bigamy charges, was in progress today until Monday when closing arguments will be made.

The testimony of three alienists yesterday held the 55-year-old street car Lothario to be slightly on the psychopathic side but not insane.



GERMAN ARMIES ON THE RUN—Virtually surrounding the great German industrial Ruhr, and racing eastward all along a wide front, allied troops were reported today to be 185 miles from Berlin, and pushing toward a junction with westbound Soviet armies. Third army troops were reported to be nearing the famous shrine city of Nuernberg, while other units of the U. S. forces were reported nearing Hanover.

Crucifixion of Prince of Peace Commemorated As La Grande Lays Aside Personal Affairs

Bright sunlight, softened by the large stained glass windows, filled the First Baptist church, and floral decorations created a peaceful setting for the Good Friday service conducted this afternoon, under the auspices of the La Grande Ministerial association.

A capacity crowd that filled the church heard a preliminary program of three numbers, "Melody" and "Poeme D'Amour," by Reynard, and "Andante Cantabile" by Tschakowsky, presented by a high school string quintet.

The quintet, under the direction of O. P. Weigel, included Iris Wright, Beverly Smith, Ailee Gordon, Mary Jasper and Melody Barnes.

The invocation was given by W. B. Starmer, and scripture readings by Rev. R. E. Stanley Hunt, Rev. O. A. Crofford and Rev. R. W. Tomeraasen. The prayer was offered by Rev. Mark A. Talney, and the Good Friday message by Rev. B. Ross Evans. Rev. Irvin S. Metz gave the benediction.

Hymns were sung and silent meditation observed. Mrs. Retta Ehlers, accompanied by Dr. Henry J. Ehlers, presented a soprano solo, and Frances Voruz played the piano postlude.

Many La Grande business firms suspended all activities in observance of the Good Friday program, opening later in the afternoon for business.

A public observance of Good Friday will be held at 7:30 o'clock this evening at the First Presbyterian church. As a prelude to the service Mrs. Harvey Carter, organist, will play "Idylle" by Oberholt, "At Eventide" by Harris, and "Theme From Symphonie Pathetique" by Tschakowski.

The spiritual "Were You There" will be sung by Mrs. Edith Worley, and the choir will sing "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" by Bach.

Rev. Mark A. Talney will deliver a meditation on "The Conqueror of Calvary."

The chancel choir of the First Presbyterian church will rehearse at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the close of the Good Friday services.

Ill Health Causes Former Soldier To Take Own Life

Despondency over ill health contracted overseas, and which resulted in his discharge from the army, today was blamed by Coroner L. L. Snodgrass for the suicide yesterday of Vance Victor Johnson, 26, at his home at 2563 North Birch street. The coroner said death was caused by a pistol shot in his head.

Johnson was born in La Grande and had lived here all his life with the exception of the time he was in the service. He enlisted in the armed service in April, 1939 and was a member of the national guards, the 160th infantry, and served through the rough fighting in the south Pacific until he became ill and was sent back to the United States. He was discharged October 31, 1944, at Walla Walla.

His mother died when he was 14. See ILL HEALTH — Page 5

Enterprise Youth Honored by FFA

Gerald Sordun of Enterprise today was elected vice-president of the Oregon Association of Future Farmers of America at the 17th annual convention which ended today in Portland.

Other state officers elected were Robert Taylor, Grants Pass, president; Leonard Perlich, Salem, secretary; Leonard Hopkins, Cloverdale, treasurer, and Orville Ohling, Albany, reporter.

Big Allied Fleet, Is Reported Massing For Okinawa Blow

GUAM, March 30 (UP) — Japanese reports today said that five allied task forces, spearheaded by 18 battleships, have steamed within 25 miles of Japan's home waters in preparation for invasion of Okinawa island the Ryukyus.

Tokyo reports said that the American forces appeared near Tanaga Shima, only 25 miles from the Japanese homeland, and hinted that the remnants of the main Japanese fleet might emerge from hiding to attack the Americans.

The Japanese report, however, did not indicate that any counter-measures were taken against the daring American fleet when it approached the coast.

One U. S. naval force appeared near Ashizuri Zami, at the southern tip of Shikoku island, on Thursday, Tokyo reported. It was on Shikoku that Japan first established its major prisoner-of-war camps.

"Part of the enemy task forces made its appearance near Tanaga Shima," Tokyo said. Tanaga is only 25 miles from the coast of Japan. Ashizuri Zami lies across the Bungo channel from Kyushu, site of some of Japan's biggest industries and naval bases.

The enemy said the task force off Ashizuri Zami "has made its retreat." There was no reference to a bombardment or of any counter-measures.

"Japanese forces," said Tokyo, "are still hunting down the enemy task forces in the neighboring waters of the Japanese homeland."

Presumably the task forces mentioned in today's enemy reports were those which hurled swarms of carrier aircraft against cities and naval bases of southern Japan. Never before, however, had American surface combat craft been reported so close to Japan's mainland in this war.

Estimates Are Erratic
Japanese estimates of the task forces which the enemy said has been hitting installations all the way from Japan proper to the Sakishimas, 600 miles to the southwest, ranged from 150 surface ships to 2,000, including transports and landing craft.

One Tokyo broadcast said "almost the entire American Pacific fleet" was mobilized for the assault.

Though the assault was centered on Okinawa, naval and air base island, 330 miles from the mainland, Tokyo said one task force appeared last night and today "around" Tanaga island, only 25 miles off the coast of Japan itself.

A penetration to Tanaga would be the closest approach to Japan by allied warships of the war and would represent a ringing challenge to the remnants of the Japanese fleet to come out and fight.

The hulk of the assault was centered on Okinawa, naval and air base island, 330 miles from the mainland, Tokyo said one task force appeared last night and today "around" Tanaga island, only 25 miles off the coast of Japan itself.

The messages were significant for the task force was destined to hit the Japanese within 500 miles of their home islands.

The task force is a potent unit, spearheaded by the most powerful and newest vessels of the British fleet, such as the 35,000-ton battleship, King George V, and the 23,000-ton carrier, Illustrious.

War Labor Board Moves to Prevent Coal Mine Strike

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30 (UP)—The war labor board today called the united mine workers and soft coal operators to a public hearing at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow to explain their refusal to continue working under an extension of their existing contract. It expires at midnight tomorrow.

The board's order for the hearing technically called on the UMW and the operators to show cause why they should not extend their present contract until they agree on a new one.

It also called on them to show cause—if any—why they should not agree on a retroactive date from which any benefits finally agreed to would be effective. Presumably that date would be April 1.

Failure of the miners and operators to agree to continue work under terms of the existing contract undoubtedly would lead to quick government seizure of bituminous mines to prevent a strike, it is believed.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins asked the WLB to step into the wage-hour controversy late last night after the operators rejected her compromise proposal for settlement, which had been accepted by UMW President John L. Lewis.

Mrs. Perkins said it was "obvious" that the operators were trying to force a strike. See WLB ACTS — Page 5

Senator Assails Manpower Bill

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30 (UP)—Sen. C. Wayland Brooks, R., Ill., today denounced the White House approved compromise manpower bill as a plan "to stifle both labor and industrial management to future government edict."

Brooks opened the third day of senate debate on the measure which would give Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes almost unlimited power to impose employment ceilings on industry and to freeze workers in essential jobs.

Administration leaders were openly pessimistic over chances for passage of the bill.

Nursing Aide Is Given New Term

SALEM, Ore., March 30 (UP)—Sister Mary Alexis, of La Grande, has been reappointed for another three year term on the state board for examination and registration of graduate nurses. Gov. Ed. Snell announced today.

Her term begins April 2. Sister Mary Alexis came to La Grande in August, 1944, from St. Anthony hospital in Portland.