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American Split of Okinawa Defense Looms

La Grande Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 2, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Bremen Menaced by Allies

Routed Nazis Flee To Escape Closing Of Holland Trap

LONDON, April 2 (UP) — The Berlin radio said tonight that allied forces in the Ruhr had attacked Hamm several times, had reached Recklinghausen where some German strongpoints still were holding out, and were fighting through the streets of Duisburg and Oberhausen.

PARIS, April 2 (UP) — British armored divisions drove more than 15 miles beyond Muenster today and struck for Bremen and the Dutch north sea ports in a bid to knock out the Nazi V-bomb bases and liberate Holland.

Armored vanguards of the British second and Canadian first armies were 74 miles southwest of Bremen, Germany's second port, and about the same distance south of the Dutch seacoast.

German resistance was broken all along the broad British front and a swift dash to the coast that would complete the liberation of Holland appeared well underway.

Hitler's "Final" Peace Proposal Heard in Sweden

LONDON, April 2 (UP) — Rumors of a so-called "last peace proposal" by Adolf Hitler circulated today as Nazi home propaganda took on a desperate tone, calling on all Germans to "fight or perish" and claiming that an underground Nazi "werewolf" movement was arising in occupied German territory.

Source of the peace rumor was the "Free German" press bureau in Stockholm.

This source said Hitler has asked Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop to deliver to Britain a "last peace proposal."

Armistice Proposed

The Hitler bid was said to include a request for an immediate armistice in the west; maintenance of the German armies in the east; joint occupation of west Germany by British, American and German armies; and a European peace conference at which Russia would not be represented. Hitler was described as determined to continue his war against Russia but was said to be willing to retire if a general election showed he was not wanted by the German populace. He was also said to be prepared to allow Austria a plebiscite on whether she desires to continue as part of the Reich.

Jap War Criminal List Is Completed

LONDON, April 2 (UP) — The United Nations war crimes commission has compiled a preliminary list of Japanese war criminals but it was not disclosed whether Emperor Hirohito headed it.

The commission, issuing its first lengthy report last night, emphasized, however, that heads of states would be granted no immunity.

Adolf Hitler was the only man named in the preliminary list, and his mention was only incidental.

Other obvious names on the list, said neither names nor number of persons in preliminary list of war prisoners can be disclosed.

Report disclosed, that, so far, five lists of persons believed to be war criminals had been compiled and forwarded to the United Nations.

Mr. Farragut, 37, fireman first class, of Richmond, Calif., and John William Nickel, 30, of Visalia, Calif., firemen first class, are dead.

Nickel's wife, Winona Fern, 20, is in critical condition at the Farragut hospital.

Nazi Stronghold In Hungary Falls To Soviet Armies

Vienna Flanked As Reds Drive For Strategic Pass

LONDON, April 2 (UP) — The Red army today captured the Hungarian transport hub of Nagykanizsa, and Berlin said it had irreparably flanked Vienna in a lightning thrust to Semmering, key mountain pass on the trunk railway 42 miles southwest of the Austrian capital.

Vienna itself was threatened directly. Soviet spearheads were reported only a dozen miles from the outskirts of the metropolitan area. Russian advances said disorders had broken out in the capital and elsewhere in Austria.

Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian army captured Nagykanizsa, Hungarian oil center and hub of the transport network of all southwestern Hungary. Marshal Stalin, announcing the victory, called it a powerful German stronghold. It is 20 miles southwest of Lake Balaton and 64 miles northeast of Zagreb.

(A broadcast dispatch of the DNB news agency reported the Soviet push to Semmering. It represented a gain of almost 25 miles from the advanced Red army positions reported yesterday.

Semmering is in the most important mountain pass on the trunk railway and parallel highway from Vienna through Wiesbaden.

Federal Court Is Held Powerless In OPA Price Appeals

LOS ANGELES, April 2 (UP) — Dealers who seek relief from office of price administration regulations were ordered today to present their case to the emergency court of appeals created by Congress.

Federal Judge Leon R. Yank held that his court did not have authority to rule on the validity of price regulations.

The suit for declaratory relief was brought by gasoline dealer H. V. Crew, who contended that the OPA's attempt to prohibit him from selling "processed" gasoline above ceiling prices was unconstitutional.

The OPA said the suit was the first in the nation defining rights of district courts in such cases.

PORTLAND, April 2 (UP) — The OPA will appeal the decision of Circuit Judge Walter L. Tooez, of Multnomah county, in which he dismissed five civil cases of the OPA, enforcement attorney Frank E. Wagner said today.

Judge Tooez erroneously came to the conclusion that the federal government of the United States of America was a foreign sovereign having no authority to exercise jurisdiction of this type of action in the state courts," Wagner declared.

OPA Administrator Chester Bowles asked the Multnomah circuit court to take jurisdiction in enforcing penalties of the price control act.

2 of Crew Killed In Bomber Crash

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., April 2 (UP) — Twelve men of the crew of a four-engine bomber were killed when the plane crashed eight miles northeast of Alamogordo last night, Colonel John W. Warren, commanding officer of the army air field here, announced today.

Two crew members parachuted to safety without injury. Second Lt. Donald K. Kilgore, Opportunity, Wash., was the only west coast casualty.

Woman Is Killed As Train Hits Auto

HERMISTON, Ore., April 2 (UP) — Mrs. L. L. Mohr, wife of the fire chief at Hermiston, was killed Saturday night when a Union Pacific passenger train struck her car at a crossing west of Hermiston. Mohr was only slightly hurt.



GERMAN CIVILIANS RESIST YANK DRIVE—A German civilian pushing her belongings in a baby carriage runs from a blazing house set afire by U. S. destroyers firing on enemy snipers near Aschaffenburg, Germany. Aschaffenburg is the town where fanatic women and children fired on Yank troops during bitter house-to-house fighting in that sector.

Butchery of Civilians by Japs in Manila Revealed

MANILA, March 31 — (Correct) — (UP) — An official report revealed today that the Japanese in their rape of Manila butchered helpless women and children with bayonets, shot men by the hundreds and wantonly destroyed places of worship.

The atrocities were brought to light in a mass of documentary evidence furnished by the people who survived the ordeal and by American military personnel.

Disposition of the evidence, which contains some of the most gruesome accounts ever written, was not announced but it likely will be submitted to the United Nations war crimes commission.

Perhaps the most damaging affidavit was that of Major David V. Binkley, a 37th division medical officer. He personally inspected many mass atrocity scenes, but the worst was near the Manila railway station where he saw the bodies of 115 men, women and children — all shot and bayoneted.

Many of the adults and some of the older children were tied before they were shot, Binkley said. The very small children were killed without being tied.

At De La Salle college, Binkley found the bodies of 76 men, women, and children of various ages scattered over the grounds. "Some of the women were pregnant," he testified. "All the bodies were pierced by several bayonet wounds and some were mutilated."

"At the campus residence on Taft avenue, 45 women, most of whom were slaves, were found. Evidence of assault was apparent on many of the women. Counted among the group were several children all of whom were cruelly bayoneted."

At the rear of a gasoline station, Binkley found 48 bodies, eight of them women, all with bayonet wounds.

See SLAYING, Page 5

Increase In Civilian Goods In Prospect as European War Ends

WASHINGTON, April 2 (UP) — There were strong indications today that production of civilian goods will climb back to pre-war levels — and surpass them — in the year following defeat of Germany.

But that still will not mean a return to the pre-war standard of living for Americans.

A bill taken at least two of the years, in the opinion of many officials, to satisfy the pent-up demands in this country alone for automobiles, radios, refrigerators and similar items. And some of this production will be earmarked for export.

In the first few months after V-E day, the increase in civilian goods will hardly be apparent to the man on the street.

Sportsmen to Form Area Council at Meeting In Elgin

Four Counties To Be Represented At Sunday Session

Northeastern Oregon sportsmen will gather Sunday, April 8, at Elgin for the purpose of effecting a sports organization council representative of the entire district.

Tom Burton, president of the Elgin Rod and Gun club, host club, announced today that representatives of 20 organizations from Union, Wallowa, Baker and Umatilla counties will be present at the session.

Needs Not Recognized

"Sportsmen of this area have long felt that the needs of north-eastern Oregon from a fish and game point of view have not been properly recognized. We feel that the proposed council will help make heard the voice of northeastern Oregon sportsmen at the meetings of the fish and game commission and with the legislature."

"We want equal consideration with all other areas of the state. Our sports resources are among our greatest and should be developed properly."

Commissioner to Attend

Principal speaker for the event will be Virgil Bennington of Walla Walla, member of the Washington fish and game commission. R. L. McClellan of Enterprise, member of the Oregon fish and game commission, will be present at the session. Frank Wire, state fish and game supervisor, has been asked to attend.

The meeting is scheduled for 12 o'clock at the Knights of Pythias hall in Elgin and lunch will be served by the Pythian sisters of that community.

Master of ceremonies for the event will be Circuit Court Judge R. J. Green of La Grande.

Burton emphasized that all sportsmen of the area are invited to attend to aid in the formulation of the new organization.

Manpower Defeat Seems Certain As Opposition Grows

WASHINGTON, April 2 (UP) — The resignation of War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes appeared today to have clinched defeat of the compromise manpower bill.

Senate opponents of the controversial job-freeze measure had been confident before the Byrnes announcement that the bill would be defeated. Now, they said, the margin will be greater.

Sen. Kenneth S. Wherry, R., Neb., predicted "an even more decisive" defeat for the bill.

"The administration has now revealed that the legislature was designed not for war but to control manpower during the reconversion period," he said. "Many who were doubtful have swung against the bill because of this."

Sen. Wayne L. Morse, R., Ore., former member of the war labor board, attacked the bill in his first speech in the senate as "going further down the road to give more arbitrary and unchanged power than any other bill ever proposed by this administration."

Morse said he was "satisfied the bill is being pushed by the administration to carry out a program which will not be in the best interests of representative government in this country."

Those who talk about a manpower shortage, he said, "are simply ignorant of the facts."

Cove Marine Is Wounded In Action

Casualty lists released today by the navy department include the name of Pvt. Clinton D. Lowe of the marine corps among the Oregon men wounded. His next of kin is given as his wife, a resident of Cove.

All American casualty lists are now withheld by the various branches of the service until next of kin have been notified.

Minor Resistance Is Encountered; Kume Landing Is Reported

GUAM, April 2 (UP) — American invasion troops have smashed forward more than half way across Okinawa in a swift advance against scattered Japanese sniper and pillbox resistance, front dispatches reported today. An announcement that Okinawa had been split in two was expected hourly.

Yank infantrymen have driven at least five miles inland along the dirt roads of the 70 mile long island, United Press War Correspondent Lisle Shoemaker reported from a Liberator over Okinawa. Since the island is only seven or eight miles wide at the invasion area, it appeared U. S. forces were nearing the east coast.

Hard fighting flared on the southern flank of the American army marine front where tank-led infantrymen were driving toward Naha, the island's burning capital, less than seven miles distant.

Tokyo radio reported without allied confirmation that Americans completed a new landing today on the island of Kume, 52 miles west of Okinawa, and 340 miles northeast of Formosa.

Byrnes Resigns As War Mobilizer; Vinson Appointed

WASHINGTON, April 2 (UP) — Justice James F. Byrnes, predicting that "V-E day is not far distant," resigned today as director of the office of war mobilization and reconversion.

President Roosevelt, expressing "heartfelt regret," accepted the resignation and immediately nominated Fred M. Vinson, head of the federal loan agencies, as Byrnes' successor.

Vinson formerly was director of economic stabilization. He took over the loan job only a few weeks ago after Jesse H. Jones was ousted by the president.

Byrnes had been mobilization director since the office was created a year and 10 months ago. He was charged with coordinating all home-front phases of the war effort and settling disputes among government agencies.

Closed Race Tracks

He issued the disputed orders closing race tracks and imposing a midnight curfew on entertainment places. He promised on Saturday that these bans would be revoked on V-E day.

Byrnes asked that his resignation become effective today. But the president requested that he make it effective on the date that Vinson is confirmed. Byrnes agreed to stay in Washington until his duties are transferred to Vinson and then will return to his home in Spartanburg, S. C., for a rest.

An exchange of correspondence between Byrnes and President Roosevelt recalled that early as last June Byrnes had announced his desire not to remain in office to administer the reconversion program. After the election in November Byrnes again reminded the president of his desire to leave. The agreement then was that he would accept the war mobilization directorship only until V-E day.

Opening of Elgin Bank Is Deferred

Opening of Elgin's new state bank, scheduled for this month, now will be delayed until approximately the beginning of May, F. B. Emery, president of the new financial institution and general manager of the Ponderosa Pine Lumber company, said today.

Opening of the bank awaits the arrival of a new cashier, whose name has not been announced, and completion of remodeling of the bank building.

Water Session to Be Held Tuesday

Reports on snow conditions and irrigation water prospects in this area will be the subject of a meeting in the city hall at 10 a.m. tomorrow under the auspices of the soil conservation service and Oregon state college experiment station.

The meeting will be convened at 10 a.m., and will be conducted by W. T. Frost, associate hydraulic engineer, and in attendance will be irrigation power and forest service officials and others interested in the water prospects for the coming spring and summer seasons.

Governor Proclaims April 6 Army Day

SALEM, Ore., April 2 (UP) — April 6 was today named as Army day in Oregon by Governor Earl Snell.

In a formal proclamation the governor called upon citizens to "fly the flag . . . sponsor proper observances . . . and . . . rededicate ourselves to the quickening of all our war efforts and to the organization of all our efforts toward a lasting peace."

Resistance Is Light

United Press War Correspondent E. G. Valens, accompanying forward elements of two army units driving across Okinawa from the captured Kadena air field, said resistance continued comparatively light. This column was heading downhill toward Noza and the Nagasaki bay naval anchorage on the east side of the island.

"The only enemy resistance," Valens said, "is from a few scattered pillboxes, snipers, and 100-pound land mines."

Jap Civilians Enter

A dispatch from the 24th army corps headquarters on Okinawa said an armed band of civilians, including women, attacked an American battalion on the right flank last night. All but three were killed or committed suicide. Three women were captured.

The hardest fighting raged in the "badlands" north of Naha, prime objective of this amphibious operation on the main guardian island of the southern approaches to Japan.

There the troops under Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner collided with Japanese prepared positions and machine gun nests. Roads were blocked.

See OKINAWA . . . Page 6

State Expansion Of Veterans' Aid Facilities Urged

Dr. Ray Hawks, director of research and field service for the Oregon state teachers association, was the principal speaker at the Lions club weekly luncheon today in the Stein coffee shop banquet room.

Dr. Hawks reviewed the history of education in the United States since the year 1641, pointing out that it was originally shaped for vocational as well as academic education, and was responsible for the great technological development of this nation today.

He stressed the importance of technological knowledge as a national asset, and prophesied that the nation of tomorrow leading in the field of technology would also be best fitted to survive in the age of sectional and national competition.

He also urged serious consideration of the need of expanding Oregon's educational facilities to the end that the returning war veterans would have available the best educational facilities that the state could offer them.

Cecil D. Kelley, member of the club's city street signing committee, announced that production of city street sign posts has begun, and that club members will soon be asked to prepare holes for setting the posts.

A. B. Olson, co-chairman of the See STATE . . . Page 5

High Court Rejects Racketeer Appeal

WASHINGTON, April 2 (UP) — The supreme court today refused to review racketeer convictions against seven former members of the international association of theatrical and stage employees for the extortion of more than \$1,000,000 from several major film producing companies.

Those appealing were Louis Compagnon, Paul de Lucia, Phil D'Andrea, Charles Gioe, John Rosselli, Louis Kaufman and Francis Marlotte. Each was sentenced to prison and fined \$10,000.

They were tried as an aftermath of similar convictions against George Browne, president of the union, and Willie Bioff, his personal representative.