

Muenster, Kassel Taken by Allies

Weather
Data for 24 hours ending at 7 a.m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 47
Minimum 23
Precipitation .30
Forecast: Partly cloudy and warmer tonight and Wednesday

La Grande Evening Observer

LA GRANDE, OREGON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 3, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Reds Take Austrian Industry Hubs

Tolbukhin Closes On Vienna When Defenses Crumble

LONDON, April 3 (UP)—Red army troops tonight drove toward the outskirts of Vienna after capturing the chief Austrian industrial centers of Wiener-Neustadt, Neunkirchen and Gloggnitz.

Last reports Red army advance columns were only 11 miles south of Vienna. Wiener-Neustadt, 23 miles south of Vienna, is the site of Germany's biggest Messerschmitt plants. Neunkirchen, 13 miles to the south and Gloggnitz is eight miles south of Neunkirchen.

The advance cut all of Vienna's direct southward rail connections, forcing the Germans to use a roundabout route through Linz.

The Red army successes were announced by Marshal Stalin in an order of the day addressed to Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin.

Eisenstadt, 13 miles east of Wiener-Neustadt also was taken. The Germans reported heavy fighting in Baden, only 11 miles from Vienna and in Bratislava, capital of the puppet Slovakian state.

Moscow dispatches said Marshal Rodio Y. Malinovsky's second Ukrainian army group drove into the outskirts of Bratislava, eastern gateway to Vienna, after capturing Biskupice, two and a half miles to the southeast. Bratislava lies 30 miles east of Vienna. Other Russian units were within gun range of the greater Vienna area delineated by Adolf Hitler in 1938 and less than 20 miles from the city itself on the southeast.

Berlin Drive Imminent
To the north, Moscow reported, evidence increased that the 200-hour for the Red army's frontal smash from the Oder river against Berlin was approaching. The Russians plunged into the city limits of Bratislava under a canopy of shells laid down by massed Soviet artillery. Moscow said the fall of Bratislava would pull the plug from Vienna's frontal defenses for Soviet advances along both sides of the Danube.

Vajany, four miles northeast of Bratislava and 29 miles east of Vienna, also fell as the second army group drove up to the foothills of the small Carpathian mountains on a 25-mile front. Advances of up to 14 miles were reported.

German broadcasts said the Soviets were battling in the Semmering pass in the Pischbacher 42 miles southwest of Vienna and 132 miles east of Adolf Hitler's hideaway at Berchtesgaden.

7th War Loan To Be Parley Topic
A number of La Grande people plan to attend a six-county meeting of the war finance committees to be held tomorrow noon in Baker. Payroll savings programs and plans for the seventh war loan drive, opening May 14, will be discussed.

Eastern Oregon counties to be represented at the meeting, which will start with a luncheon in the Baker hotel dining room, will be Union, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Grant, Malheur and Baker.

Pits Deserted By Alabama Miners
BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 3 (UP)—A majority of Alabama soft coal miners remained away from the pits today, apparently protesting the fact no contract has been negotiated since the April 1 expiration date.

Only a few mines in the state were operating with skeleton crews. William Mitch, president of District 20 of the United Mine Workers, issued an appeal to all miners to return to work. He said the expected operations to resume in 100 or three days.

GENERAL IS PROMOTED
WASHINGTON, April 3 (UP)—The senate today confirmed promotion of Lt. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, marine corps commandant, to the rank of full general.

Yanks Strengthen Hold on Okinawa

Good Supply Of Irrigation Water Looms

Much improved water supplies for 1945 throughout northeastern Oregon compared with the outlook a year ago were forecast today by officials of irrigation districts, power companies and the agricultural extension service who took part in the annual water forecast meeting here.

The meeting was held by W. T. Frost of Medford, representing the cooperative snow survey and irrigation water forecasts conducted by the soil conservation service and the OSC Experiment station.

Local officials pointed out that the extreme shortage foreseen a year ago was averted only by exceptionally heavy June rains that came in time to save most crops. Snow supplies in the mountains feeding the various streams are such now, however, as to insure near normal stream flow throughout the area without regard to uncertain late spring or summer rain.

Late Snow Beneficial
Men attending the meeting from Walla and Baker counties said the unseasonable snowfall that blanketed the Grande Ronde valley this morning with from three to six inches of new snow was general throughout the territory and probably much heavier in the high mountains, thus adding to the already improved snow storage on the watersheds.

R. W. Schaad, Union county agent, and George T. Cochran, local attorney long interested in water supply, said soil moisture conditions throughout the valley are good compared with last year, indicating need for less irrigation.

Good Run-off Foreseen
Stream flow prospects for the April-September period, based on mountain snow reports and conditions of watershed soils, are for 79 per cent and 78 per cent. See IRRIGATION... Page 5

German Navy Base Is Bomber Target

LONDON, April 3 (UP)—American eighth air force bombers attacked the big German naval base and Baltic ports of Kiel today in a renewal of the campaign against the shipping facilities behind the threatened defenders of northwest Germany.

About 750 Flying Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by 650 fighters, bombed Kiel, one of the main harbors of Schleswig-Holstein, toward which the allied 21st army group was pressing. British Mosquito bombers last night attacked Berlin and the synthetic oil center of Magdeburg.

Manpower Bill Is Killed By Senate

WASHINGTON, April 3 (UP)—The senate today rejected the compromise manpower bill. The vote was 48 to 29. The decision had been expected ever since the bill came to the floor last Wednesday.

The house previously had adopted the bill by a small margin. After rejecting the measure, the senate voted unanimously to send it back to conference with the house, with the same amendments before.



JAP MIDGET SUB P-T BOAT BASE—Hidden away in one of many sheltered coves of Okinawa is this Jap midget submarine and torpedo boat base. Anchored in cove is Jap "Sea Truck," which has just narrowly missed bomb from attacking American naval plane. Thousands of these small craft shuttle back and forth from Jap homeland to nearby island possessions carrying small quantities of military cargo. Midget sub is seen foreground, several torpedo boats, covered with palm leaf camouflage, are tied up at right angle to sub. Yanks invading Keramo Retto discovered and destroyed 290 Jap "suicide" boats of secret fleet which apparently planned to attack invading American forces. U. S. Navy photo.

Approaches to Singapore are Under Fire of British Fleet

By United Press
The Chungking radio reported Tuesday that "formidable fleets" of British destroyers were attacking Japanese coastal installations on Sumatra, the long Netherlands East Indies island which guards the approaches to Singapore.

The Chungking broadcast said the British surface fleet has inflicted considerable damage on Japanese shipping in the waters around Sumatra. In addition, Chungking said, British surface units were bombarding installations on the Andaman islands, Japanese-held group in the Bay of Bengal west of the Malayan peninsula.

Three hundred American aircraft raided Formosa Tuesday, presumably to protect the south flank of the Okinawa invasion operations, Tokyo radio reported.

Luzon Japs Are Pushed Into Trap

MANILA, April 3 (UP)—U. S. assault troops squeezed the Japanese into a hopeless trap on southeastern Luzon today after an amphibious landing that overran the port of Legaspi and its airfield.

Seasoned veterans of Brig. Gen. Hanford McNider's 15th regimental combat team completed the encirclement of the Japanese in southern Luzon Sunday with a surprise landing near Legaspi, 200 miles southeast of Manila.

Fire from heavy coastal batteries met the invasion fleet, but opposition faded when the troops hit the beaches under cover of a naval and air bombardment.

Citizenship Hearing To Be Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, April 3 (UP)—The senate today scheduled a hearing on the citizenship bill for tomorrow. The bill would grant citizenship to the children of alien parents who are naturalized citizens.

Jap Defense Is Expected On Isthmus

WASHINGTON, April 3 (UP)—A "very large" force of Superfortresses struck today at industrial targets in three Japanese cities in the Tokyo area.

GUAM, April 3 (UP)—Frost dispatches said today the Japanese defenders of Okinawa appear to be making preparations for their first major defensive effort against American soldiers and marines who thus far have been virtually unopposed.

The enemy stand, it was believed, will be made across the narrow, bottleneck isthmus guarding the approaches to the capital city of Naha and its huge, nearby airfields. At last report, units of Maj. Gen. John R. Hodges' 24th army corps were a little more than six miles from the city.

The doughboys who severed Japanese defenses on Okinawa by dashing six miles to the east coast in less than 30 hours widened their hold on the vital Nakagusuku bay naval anchorage to at least three miles and still were pushing forward behind tank companies.

United Press Correspondent Edward Thomas reported that if the Japanese attempt to mass troops along this front they will be exposed to American battleship and cruiser fire, plus strafing and bombing attacks by carrier planes.

Marines at the northern end of the 10th army front broadened the west coast beachhead to at least 10 miles with an advance. See JAPS PREPARE... Page 5

U. S. Drops Plan to Seek Extra Votes In World Assembly

WASHINGTON, April 3 (UP)—President Roosevelt has decided the United States will not ask for additional votes for this country in the proposed world assembly. The announcement was made by Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., at a record-breaking press conference attended by nearly 100 correspondents.

It was disclosed last week that during the Crimea conference, Russia asked for three votes in the assembly. The White House said then that Britain and the U. S. agreed to support this request in the San Francisco conference.

The White House added in last week's announcement: "But the American representatives stated that, if the United Nations organization agreed to let the Soviet republics have three votes, the United States would ask for three votes also."

Today's announcement meant that the U. S. apparently will continue to support the Russian request for three votes, fulfilling the promise made at Yalta, but will not follow this up by asking the three votes for this country.

Stettinius also announced that plans for the April 25 San Francisco conference are proceeding with no thought of postponement. On the contrary, because of the rapid tempo of military and political events, it is increasingly necessary that the plans for creating a world organization be carried on promptly.

Chamber Directors To Meet Thursday

The April meeting of the directors of the La Grande Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday noon in the Stein Coffee shop banquet room. President Raymond L. Gray will make an announcement regarding future forum meetings.

Patton's Forces Race Across Germany For Junction With Reds

LONDON, April 3 (UP)—The Paris radio said tonight that American forces had captured Wuerzburg, big transport center 60 miles southeast of Frankfurt.

PARIS, April 3 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's tanks today roared into Gotha, only 150 miles from Berlin and a scant 185 miles from junction with the Red army. Gotha is less than 25 miles west of Weimar, birthplace of the German republic, on the important highway leading to Leipzig, 75 miles east of Gotha.

Other third army units captured Kassel, big rail and highway center 58 miles northwest of Gotha and 165 miles from Berlin. A dispatch from the city said it fell to the 80th division after a three-day battle, and a mopup of isolated nests of resistance was going on.

The 80th division captured historic Kassel after three days of the bloodiest fighting by third army forces since the crossing of the Rhine.

Eisenhower Says Ruhr Nazis "Ripe For Annihilation"

PARIS, April 3 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said in a special order of the day to his armies today that German troops encircled in the Ruhr were "ripe for annihilation."

One whole German army group and part of another were caught in the Ruhr trap, he said, and their "fate is sealed."

"A most vital war industrial area is denied to the German war potential," he continued. "This magnificent feat of arms will bring the war more rapidly to a close."

"It will long be remembered in history as an outstanding battle—the battle of the Ruhr."

Patton's fresh sweep came as Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's forces captured the Westphalian capital of Muenster, 227 miles west of Berlin, and swept north along the Dutch-German frontier in a drive that threatened to trap possibly 50,000 nazis within Holland.

The U. S. ninth army fought its way into the great Ruhr city of Hamm and its armored spearheads were pushing within 37 miles of Hannover on the Ruhr-Berlin super-highway.

Armor Enters Gotha
Gotha was entered by fourth armored division spearheads which thrust forward 16 miles east of Eisenach.

The fourth division was barely 75 miles from the old Czech frontier at Gotha and about 185 miles from the closest Russian army units. A 12th army group spokesman said KASSEL... Page 5

Heroic U. S. Tank Leader Slain After Surrendering

WITH FIRST U. S. ARMY IN GERMANY, April 3 (UP)—Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose, Denver, Colo., commander of the Third armored division, was shot to death by Nazi tankmen while taking off his pistol to hand over to his German captors, it was announced today.

Rose's aide, Maj. Robert Ballinger, White Plains, N. Y., said Rose already had surrendered to the crew of a German Tiger tank when tankmen with a "burp" gun shot him.

Rose was riding south of Paderborn last Saturday when he was captured. He was trying to reach a portion of the third armored task force which had been cut off.

Rose, one of the outstanding tankmen of the war, led the third armored division spearhead through northern France into Belgium and his unit was the first to breach the Siegfried line. It was the first to enter Cologne and now is one of the first on the road to Berlin.

Runs Into Trap
Ballinger said the general's jeep, followed by a command half-track, ran into a German tank column. They pulled off the road and started through a field trying to escape the Nazi tanks when they ran into a German Tiger tank on the edge of the woods.

The general and his aide got out of the jeep and stood with their hands over heads in surrender. As Rose was unbuckling his pistol holster, he was shot, Ballinger said.

Ballinger and the jeep driver jumped into the ditch as did the crewmen from the half-track. All worked their way back to the line.

Later, armored units returned to the spot and found the general's body and the command half-track. The car was untripped, indicating the Nazis either were See GEN. ROSE... Page 5

Captured General Says Hitler Plans to Die Leading Guard

LONDON, April 3 (UP)—A captured German general told front correspondents today that Adolf Hitler plans to die in battle at the head of SS elite guard troops especially picked for the honor of dying with the fuhrer.

SS units already were being designated for the sacrifice, German Maj. Gen. Hans Boehlson said in an interview with a London News-Chronicle correspondent on the third army front.

Another captured German, Prince Engelbert Charles Arenberg, first German prince to fall into allied hands, said he received private word that Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering is dead.

Other high Nazi chiefs still are alive and making their escape to some hideout, presumably in the Bavarian Alps, he told a London Daily Tele-