

Bremen Passed in Hannover Drive

Nazi Concentrations In Leipzig Area May Be Aimed at Patton

PARIS, April 6 (UP)—United States ninth army forces captured the great Ruhr industrial center of Hamm today when stiff German resistance collapsed suddenly.

PARIS, April 6 (UP)—Two American and one British army rammed through wily Nazi defenses today to plunge within 17 miles of Hannover, 136 miles west of Berlin, and the great North Sea port of Bremen was flanked in a drive across the open north German plain.

The American first army joined the British second and the American ninth in a new offensive that rolled up the Weser river line, last German river line before the Elbe which lies just beyond the city's western suburbs.

The ninth army was within 17 miles of Hannover and the first army swung forward as much as 25 miles to reach the Weser about 160 miles southwest of Berlin.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army, which has paced the attack across Germany, drove forward seven miles southwest of Gotha to a point less than 60 miles from Leipzig.

Reports from returning fighter pilots said that heavy German military movement had been noted on the highways leading to Leipzig.

That might indicate extensive Nazi preparations in an attempt to halt Patton's rampaging columns before they can reach Leipzig, which is a likely junction point with the Soviet forces of Marshal Ivan S. Konev. At the closest point Patton was little more than 160 miles from achieving this juncture.

Glider Land Tanks
A German report said that American gliders had landed light tanks at Langensalza, 17 miles north of Gotha, where heavy fighting was reported. Langensalza is 79 miles southwest of Magdeburg.

The report, if correct, might indicate that Patton's advanced spearheads now are placing more reliance upon air transport due to the rapidity of their advance.

Many Prisoners Taken
Third army registers showed a total of 54,614 prisoners captured this week 42,649 last week. There have been 71,670 processed in the last 15 days and an estimated 92,500 captured in that period to bring the total of 200,000 since March 7 and 400,000 since August 1.

German reports said Canadian troops had reached Meppen, 47 miles south of Emden and 38 miles south of the Ems estuary. Late field dispatches said the Americans were 57 miles or less from the northwestern corner of Czechoslovakia, 90 miles from Leipzig and 166 miles away from See GERMAN . . . Page 7

Shipments Decline
Meanwhile, fuel administrator Harold L. Ickes, who demanded government seizure of the mines yesterday, reported that decreased mine production for the week ended March 24 had caused a sharp drop in soft coal shipments to New England and the Washington-Oregon area.

Ickes said shipments to the Washington-Oregon area in the 1944-45 fuel year were 624,138 tons under the preceding year.

Combat Service By Boys Of 18 Meets Opposition
WASHINGTON, April 6 (UP)—A new senate fight was taking shape today over the army's use of 18-year-old boys in combat.

It is expected to come to a climax when the senate takes up in a week or two a bill to extend the selective service act for one year.

An amendment to prevent the use of boys under 19 in combat without at least six months training was introduced yesterday by a bi-partisan group of members of the senate military affairs committee.

The sponsors were democrats Tom Stewart of Tennessee and Edwin Johnson of Colorado, and republicans Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia and George A. Wilson of Iowa.

Himmler Organ Says War Is Lost But Nazis Will Fight On
LONDON, April 6 (UP)—Das Schwartz Korpss, organ of Heinrich Himmler's SS elite storm troops, confessed today that Germany was "perhaps only a few days or weeks" from complete collapse.

The remarkably frank article was quoted in a Berlin dispatch to the Stockholm newspaper Dagens Nyheter. It added the implied warning, however, that SS troops would fight on to the death despite the impending collapse.

"We feel we should give the world a last warning," Das Schwartz Korpss said. "We might be defeated militarily, but we shall never lose faith in our task."

Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels, writing in his newspaper Das Reich, said Germans are beginning to look around for someone to blame for their plight.

"It is a clever method to look for scapegoats at this moment," Goebbels said. "We must face this war in complete unity. The kernel of the German war effort is to prevent the allies under all circumstances and by the use of our national strength from distributing Germany between them as their booty."

La Grande Observer



LA GRANDE, OREGON FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 6, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Weather
Data for 24 hours ending 7 a.m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 57
Minimum 34
Precipitation .12
Forecast: Cloudy and cooler with showers tonight and Saturday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

Three Red Armies Storm Vienna

Capital Defenses Stiffen as Soviets Cut Outer Lines

LONDON, April 6 (UP)—A Moscow dispatch said today that Soviet forces had three-quarters encircled Vienna and were battling in the eastern outskirts.

Two Soviet armies were storming the Austrian capital from the east, west and south, after cutting the main German supply lines southwest of the city.

Moscow said assault units of Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's 3rd Ukrainian army had penetrated an industrial settlement on the eastern edge of the city.

World Peace Will Be Subject As Four Clubs Meet

A discussion of world peace with relation to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and the world security conference in San Francisco will be the subject of a joint meeting of local service clubs April 16 under the auspices of the La Grande Lions club.

The meeting will be held at noon in the basement of the IOOF hall in connection with the weekly session of the Lions club. Participating will be the Rotary, Soroptimist and Neighborhood clubs, members of which have been invited to take guests.

The speaker will be Dr. James Miller, field representative of the Oregon council of churches.

Horace J. Nelson, president of the Lions club, announced today that reservations must be made by members of the clubs with their respective clubs prior to next Wednesday night.

For the Neighborhood club, he said, reservations may be made with Mrs. Rodney Kitchen, chairman of the club's international security committee.

Because of the widespread interest in the subject of world peace and the steps that have been taken or are about to be undertaken to that end, Nelson said it is expected that 150 or more persons will attend the luncheon meeting to hear Miller.

Tickets for the luncheon will be 75 cents, he said.

Five Pass Pilot Licensing Tests

The number of private pilot licenses held in this district was increased by five yesterday when Warren Smith and Dr. W. M. Pearce of La Grande, Gordon Gribbling of Elgin, Virgil Conley of Cove, and Ray Magee of Enterprise, passed the aeronautical examinations in Pendleton.

The group flew their planes to that city where E. S. Leach, senior aeronautical inspector for this district, conducted the examinations.

Snow squalls were encountered over the mountains on the return trip, but the trip was made without incident.

College Enrolment Up 38 Percent

An increase of 38.3 per cent in enrolment at Eastern Oregon college over that for the spring term a year ago, was reported today by Registrar Lyle H. Johnson.

Johnson announced there are 233 students enrolled, of whom 59 are taking lower division work, 73 in training for the teaching profession and 23 in the two-year secretarial science curriculum.

Eighty of the students are enrolled in the United States cadet nursing corps and are receiving their pre-cadet training at the college.

The registration includes 158 freshmen, 23 sophomores, 26 juniors, nine seniors and 16 special students.

Many Concessions Offered by Japan to Keep Soviets Neutral

MOSCOW, April 6 (UP)—Japan, it was rumored in diplomatic circles today, attempted to make far-reaching concessions to Russia including nullification of the treaty of Portsmouth, in an effort to keep the Soviet union from announcing the Russo-Japanese neutrality pact.

These rumors could not be confirmed but it was reported the Japanese were willing to pay almost any price to maintain the status quo with Russia.

Russ Losses Heavy
Under the treaty of Portsmouth Russia was forced to give up Port Arthur, surrender her lease of the Kwangtung peninsula, evacuate Manchuria, recognize Japan's sphere of influence in Korea and surrender the southern half of Sakhalin island. The treaty ended the Russo-Japanese war and was negotiated at Portsmouth, N. H.

The language employed by Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov in denouncing the pact was the object of special attention here particularly his frank statement that the status quo which has prevailed since the German outbreak on Russia has long since outlived its usefulness.

Russ Ever Watchful
The Russians, it can be revealed, never have relaxed their watchfulness on their Pacific borders.

The Russo-German war might have been brought to an end considerably earlier had the Manchurian frontier been regarded as secure.

But so far as can be ascertained the autonomous Red banner far eastern army never has displayed its strength.

This force has been estimated unofficially at 500,000 to 1,000,000 men. It has its own independent bases of supply located in eastern Siberia and the Russian maritime provinces.

See JAPS OFFER . . . Page 7

MacArthur Named As Leader Of Invasion of Japan

Nimitz Is Given Command Of All Pacific Navy

ADM. NIMITZ HEADQUARTERS, Guam, April 6 (UP)—The pattern for the conclusive phases of the Pacific war was set today in announcement of a joint command to be administered by Fleet Adm. Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Moscow's denunciation of her military pact with Japan.

While the designation of MacArthur as commander of army forces in the Pacific automatically will result in his becoming "the conqueror of Japan," the action of the joint chiefs of staff in Washington was along the lines publicly suggested by Nimitz—an army man to command a land campaign.

Little Change Expected
Actually this development will result in little or no change in the method of fighting the Japs. As previously, the navy will be responsible for softening up the target for an amphibious assault and putting troops ashore.

On the future major land operations, the navy will put MacArthur's army forces ashore. After that, he will be on his own and responsible only to himself and joint chiefs of staff.

There is little likelihood that Nimitz and MacArthur can establish joint headquarters and little need is seen for them.

Nimitz has established himself at Guam where millions of dollars worth of permanent and semi-permanent installations have been built. From here he can maintain close contact with See MACARTHUR . . . Page 7

Precipitation For Crop Year Drops Below Average
Although rain and snow are above average for both the month of March and the year to April 1, the precipitation for the crop year, calculated from last September 1, is 11.6 per cent below the 33-year average.

This is the gist of the monthly report of the Eastern Oregon livestock experiment station at Union which reveals the precipitation to April 1 was 6.75 inches as compared to a crop year average of 7.63 inches.

The station's report shows precipitation of 4.25 inches since January 1, which compares with an average of 3.40 inches. The month produced 1.46 inches of water, or a quarter-inch above the average for the 33-year period.

Precipitation was recorded on 15 days, and the station recorded 26 days as cloudy or partly cloudy.

Temperature ranged from one degree above zero on March 5, to 66 degrees on March 30, and there were 20 days in which the mercury went below the freezing point.

La Grande Lodge Of Elks Seats Official Staff

S. H. Burtleigh, La Grande attorney, last night was installed as exalted ruler of the La Grande lodge of Elks at ceremonies conducted in the lodge temple.

Foster Sims, past exalted ruler was the installing officer, and Victor Eckley, past exalted ruler, was the installing equire.

Others placed in office for the coming year are M. C. Lynch, esteemed leading knight; A. B. Olson, esteemed loyal knight; C. M. Sherrill, esteemed lecturing knight; Ray Winters, secretary; C. W. Bunting, treasurer; Frank R. Lee, J. H. Pearce, installed for three year term; Carl J. Helm, equire; Frank Schjor, inner guard; and C. A. Short, outer guard.

Entertainment provided the lodge session was provided by the Rancheros, under the direction of Larry Brunette.



LDS Leader Urges Filling of Larders to Guard Against Time Of Possible Food Shortage

SALT LAKE CITY, April 6 (UP)—The first presidency of the Latter Day Saints church today warned nearly 1,000,000 church followers to prepare for the days ahead by becoming as nearly self-sustaining as possible.

In a message read at the annual conference, marking the 115th anniversary of the church's founding, 38-year-old President Heber J. Grant urged members to work out their temporal and spiritual salvation.

J. Reuben Clark, first counselor to Grant, also cited the need to prepare for the future.

"With all the confusion over food supplies," he said, "the only safe thing for us is to assume there will be a food shortage; therefore, urge all wards and stakes to fulfill their quotas so as to be prepared in case the shortage actually occurs."

Clark also condemned what he termed a whispering campaign against the church welfare program as having political implications. He denied this to be a fact and called on church members to desist from carrying the campaign further.

The church released Amy Brown Lyman, wife of Richard R. Lyman, excommunicated former member of the council of twelve apostles, as president of the LDS church relief society. Her counselors also were released.

Named as new relief society leaders were Mrs. Belle S. Spafford, president; Mrs. Marianne Clark Sharp, first counselor, and Mrs. Gertrude Ruberg Garff, second counselor.

Future Farmers Are Hosts At Annual Dinner
The annual dinner of the La Grande chapter, Future Farmers of America, was enjoyed by members, their parents and guests, 65 in number, last night in the home economics room of the high school.

After the welcoming address by Calvin Love, chapter president, the opening rituals and the introduction of the guests and parents, George T. Cochran, told of early farming in the Grande Ronde valley.

Brief talks were made by Fred J. Patton, superintendent of schools, and Ralph Jones, principal of the high school.

Highly enjoyable to all was the presentation of four young boys, Jack Evans, Jack and Ed Ebo, Akos and Alvin LaGore who play a violin, two guitars and mandolin with the Akos brothers as vocalists.

The dinner, given for the benefit of the high school, was a marked success, and the boys were privileged to enjoy it.

High Jan Army And Navy Leaders Die On Iwo Jima

Tokyo reported today the deaths of Lt. Gen. Tadamiichi Kuribayashi, commander of Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, and Rear Admiral Tohansuke Ichimaru, commander of Japanese naval air forces in the Iwo sector.

A broadcast recorded by the FEC said Kuribayashi died gallantly leading his troops in a "final charge" on Iwo. It said he had been promoted posthumously to the rank of full general. Ichimaru was reported to have died posthumously to the rank of vice admiral.

Tokyo now has reported the death of 41 Japanese generals and 121 flag officers since last May.

Wind Blows Baby Off Roof To Death

NEW YORK, April 6 (UP)—A 10-month-old baby was blown off a roof today when a high wind blew his carriage from a second floor porch.

The baby, who was named Peter, was blown off the roof of a second floor porch.

Japs Wage Bitter Battle To Halt Yanks On Okinawa

Enemy Puts Up Stiff Fight To Save Capital

By United Press
American assault forces stormed toward main Japanese defenses before Okinawa's capital, Naha, today for the bloodiest fighting since invading the island last Sunday.

Heavy fighting was reported on approaches to hills extending across the isthmus some four miles north of Naha on the west coast and Shuri inland.

The defenders, from entrenched positions in the hills and ravines, laid down heavy artillery fire on the advancing Americans.

The Americans answered with a cross fire of artillery from the plains north and from the small island of Keise about eight miles west of Naha. Naval guns offshore joined in the shelling.

Yanks Gain 1 1/2 Miles
Ground troops drove up to the Japanese defense lines in advances of a mile and a half against stiffening opposition yesterday. It was estimated that upward of 60,000 Japanese troops were defending southern Okinawa.

In other sectors resistance continued light.

To the north marines drove from the northern end of the island. See JAPS WAGE . . . Page 3

Worst Flood In Years Expected On Mississippi

NEW ORLEANS, April 6 (UP)—Disaster agencies prepared for their most extensive flood relief operations in 18 years today, spending the evacuation of more than 65,000 persons along the banks of the Mississippi river and its tributaries from Cairo, Ill., south to the Gulf of Mexico.

American Red Cross workers, doctors and nurses were dispatched to the critical lower Mississippi region where Louisiana residents barricaded their levees to meet the worst flood threat in the state's history.

Temporary disaster headquarters were set up at Alexandria, La., on the banks of the Red River, whose overflow already has inundated several hundred thousand acres of farmland, closed scores of state highways and isolated many cities.

Army engineers awaited orders to blast a five-mile levee blocking the head of the huge Morganza floodway at Morgan City, La., which is capable of diverting 640,000 cubic feet of water per second from the Mississippi into the gulf.

Louisiana public works department officials said that more than 1,300 miles of levees are under 24-hour patrol, and volunteer workers hurriedly reinforced weak spots. Coast guard and army units aided in the evacuation of 10,000 persons in Louisiana alone.

Fugitive Nabbed After 22 Years

NEW YORK, April 6 (UP)—Edward J. Ader, former Chicago attorney and fugitive from a federal prison sentence, was arrested by the FBI today after a 22-year manhunt. He will be returned to Chicago where he escaped from the custody of a prison guard on Sept. 11, 1923.

Ader was convicted of mail fraud in federal court, Chicago, sentenced to seven years in Leavenworth prison and fined \$10,000 in November, 1920. E. E. Conroy, head of the New York office of the FBI, said: "He had been returned to Chicago to testify in a later case when he escaped to freedom in a washroom."

Conroy said his jail led the FBI through every state in the union, to London, Paris and Berlin in the last 22 years.