

New Nazi Atrocity Camp Is Found By U. S. Troops

By ROBERT E. RICHARDS

OHRDRUF, Germany, April 8 (Delayed) (UP)—Another wholesale Nazi murder camp, where scores of prisoners were shot when they became too ill to work, was discovered near here by third army tanks.

At one site they found 31 partly clothed bodies lying huddled grotesquely together where SS guards had killed them because they were too ill to be moved.

Nearby in a small wooden shed were stacked 50 or more naked things that once were men. Many were horribly bruised, and the whole pile had been sprinkled with lime.

6,000 Estimated Slain

Survivors of the ghastly ordeal at the hands of the Nazis said these victims were only part of the estimated

6,000 men killed at the camp.

Approximately 4,000 were cremated and the ashes poured into one great hole, while some 2,000 others were shot and their bodies buried in a huge pit a mile or so from the camp, according to several of the prisoners who had escaped.

Almost all the victims were Russians, Czechoslovakians, Poles, Frenchmen, German Jews and German political prisoners. They were beaten and tortured and when malnutrition prevented their doing a full day's work they were killed.

One of the victims, a blond youngster lying on a stretcher with a hole in his neck, may be an American flier. That is what he told others in the camp, but he wore no identification tags and it was impossible to check his

identity.

Those atrocities were actually seen by U. S. army officers, correspondents and Germans.

All Germans Held Responsible

Cod. Maydon A. Sears, Newton, Mass., told the German civilians, who viewed the scenes without uttering a word, that they were to blame for the fiendish acts.

A German major, who also had seen the slaughtered bodies, replied that "this was done by a few people and you cannot blame us all."

"It was done by those that the German people chose to lead them and all are responsible," Sears answered.

"Your names are being taken as witnesses so you can testify in trial if the persons responsible are apprehended."

The German major, a medical officer, had been shown the bodies by an American medical major, John R. Scotti, Brooklyn. When the German saw the bodies he said: "I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes."

Mayor and Wife Hanged

But this town's leading citizens, the burgomeister and his wife, did not see the scenes today. They were found hanged inside their homes. They had been taken to the camp before and apparently had committed suicide.

The SS guards cleaned out the camp several days ago when American tanks approached. The prisoners who could walk were taken along. Some others were put on trucks. But those who were too ill to travel either way were shot.

1 pound of Waste Paper makes 2 Blood Plasma Boxes



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ESTABLISHED 1896

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1945

Weather

Data for 24 hours ending 7 a.m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 56
Minimum 29
Precipitation Trace
Forecast: Partly cloudy; probable showers, tonight and Tuesday.

FIVE CENTS

Patton's Forces Advance on Berlin

Austrian Capital's Fall Near

LONDON, April 9 (UP)—Berlin admitted today that Russian siege forces had smashed more than half way through Vienna into the north part of the city, the fall of which appeared near.

Vienna's historic landmarks were falling by dozens to Red army forces fighting through the Austrian capital. Nazi broadcasts, acknowledging the loss of various key points, said the battle which had been raging in the southern and western parts of the city "now has been extended to the northern part."

Vienna's three largest railway stations were in Soviet hands. Only two shell-swept secondary railways remained over which the Nazi garrison could escape or receive supplies.

The free Austria radio said inhabitants of Vienna were rising against the Germans. Angry crowds demonstrated in the streets of the occupied portion of the capital and hand grenades were thrown at German troops, the broadcast said.

Nazi Leader Assassinated
Radio Moscow reported that SS Gen. Sepp Dietrich, ruthless Nazi commander in Vienna, had been assassinated by patriots who pumped five revolver shots into him at virtually point-blank range while he was en route to see VIENNA. . . . Page 5

Prominent Matron Of Wallowa Dies In Local Hospital

Mrs. Flossie Williams Renfrow, 84 of Wallowa, died today in a local hospital after a short illness. Funeral services will be held at 11 a. m. Wednesday in the Methodist church in Wallowa, with Rev. Donald Crego officiating. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p. m. that day in Walla Walla.

She was born in Lawrence, Kansas, July 25, 1861, and had been a resident of Wallowa county for 36 years, where for many years she taught in the public schools.

Mrs. Renfrow was active in community affairs and at the time of her death was president of the Women's Club there, a member of Rebekah lodge, the Methodist church and the Methodist Ladies Aid, and also worked with the Christian Ladies Aid.

Survivors include her husband, Dale Renfrow, three daughters, Edna Hunter, Mrs. Genevieve Chronovsky and Frances Renfrow, and three grand children, Charles Sally and Peggy Hunter, all of Wallowa; a sister, Fannie Demaris of Walla Walla, and a brother, Jess Williams of Kelso.

La Grande Officer Wounded In Europe

Official casualty lists issued by the war department today contain the names of 938 soldiers killed, 2,711 wounded and 530 taken prisoner since the last list was issued.

The current report includes among those wounded in the European area, 1st Lt. Martin L. Fry, husband of Mrs. Eleanor Fry, 2110 Second street.

Next of kin are notified in advance of release of the names of combat casualties for publication.

Diogenes Need Look No Farther For Honest Man

LOS ANGELES, April 9 (UP)—Lt. C. A. Frank, jr., USNR, Dallas, Tex., today gave thanks to an honest man.

While motoring last week from Seattle with his wife and 3-year-old son, Lt. Frank lost his billfold at a Willows, Cal., filling station.

A registered letter arrived here yesterday at the home of his wife's parents, containing a cashier's check for the amount he had lost—\$362. The sender, Paul Stormer, of Willows, enclosed a brief note.

Forum Meetings To Be Resumed By Local Chamber

Resumption of forum meetings of the La Grande chamber of commerce on the second Thursday of each month, beginning this week, was announced today by Raymond Gray, chamber president, in connection with the appointment of committees for 1945.

"Through these forum meetings the chamber will keep the people of the community apprised of the chamber's work for the welfare and development of the community," Gray said.

The forum sessions will be held at noon in the banquet room of the Stein cafe, and will center chiefly in reports by the various committee chairmen on the activities of their groups.

Committee appointments were announced as follows:

Aviation—Dr. C. L. Gilstrap, chairman, W. C. Perkins, vice-chairman, Ed. Ford, Dr. J. L. Ingle, Wm. Peare, Charles H. Reynolds, H. E. Dixon, W. M. Pierson.

Agricultural—R. W. Schand, chairman, A. K. Parker, vice-chairman, Alex. McKenzie, W. C. Perkins, A. W. Kiddle, Chase Bohnenkamp, E. H. DeLong.

Better Business Bureau—T. B. Lumsden, chairman, Harry McCarthy, vice-chairman, Wm. Siegrist, Ann Johnson.

Community Welfare—John Cavanaugh, chairman, T. H. Gauthier, vice-chairman, B. F. Wyldie, Cliff Sherrill, C. W. Bunting, Dr. J. L. McPherson, Dr. Robert Maaske, George T. Elmer McManus.

Inter-club Relations—President of Junior Chamber of Commerce, Lions club, Rotary club and Soroptimist club.

Fair and Livestock—W. C. Perkins.

Educators Return From Music Parley

Leroy Darling and O. P. Weigel of the high school music department, have returned from Spokane, Wash., where they attended a three-day conference for music educators of five northwestern states.

Weigel served as one of 50 consultants selected to serve as a war emergency council, and also served on the committee to study instrumental problems.

Seven committees were appointed to consider and work on the various problems concerning public school music.

Emphasis was placed on recognition of such problems as: providing opportunities for community ensemble playing; and assistance to the returning service man; the value of the social musical instruments in the school music program; in service training for teachers and the development and encouragement of string players to develop the full orchestra.

Parent-Teacher Groups Attend Area Conference

Child Rearing, Home Problems Are Discussed

Mrs. Harry H. George of Portland, president of the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, today opened a district conference at which representatives of eastern Oregon units were present.

Mrs. Claude Hagey, Portland, state treasurer of the organization, and Mrs. Ruth Forrest, supervisor of family life education of Portland school system, accompanied the state president to La Grande. They were joined here by Mrs. O. C. Offord of Fort Collins, Colo., a national vice-president who also appeared on the conference program today.

After registration, community singing was led by O. P. Weigel, of La Grande high school music department, and invocation was given by Rev. Mark A. Talney, Mrs. J. W. Bennett, regional vice-president, greeted the guests and introduced the speakers. A violin solo was played by Aylee Gordon, accompanied by Phyllis McLaughlin.

Family Life Discussed

Mrs. Forrest, speaking on "A Changing Family in a Changing World" discussed marriage, children and the effect of the home.

Mrs. Lot Snodgrass Called By Death After Long Illness

Mrs. Ouida Irene Snodgrass, 52, wife of Lot L. Snodgrass of 1502 Fourth street, died Sunday morning in a local hospital, following a long illness.

Besides her husband, she leaves one son, William C. Arrivey of La Grande; a sister, Mrs. Ed H. Ford of La Grande, and another sister in Salt Lake City; two brothers in California, and two grandchildren, Margo Lynn and Lot Joseph Arrivey of La Grande.

Mrs. Snodgrass was well known in the community, having many friends, and was active in civic work throughout her residence in La Grande. She took an active part in the work of the Red Cross since the beginning of the war. She was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal church, the Eagles auxiliary and the American Legion auxiliary, here, and the Daughters of the Nile in Portland.

She was born July 3, 1892 in San Francisco and came to La Grande to make her home 30 years ago.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday, in the Snodgrass funeral chapel with Rev. Clarence Kopp officiating. Interment will be in the family plot in the Masonic cemetery.

Navy May Seek Personnel Boost

WASHINGTON, April 9 (UP)—Despite cuts in its monthly draft quotas, the navy department is thinking about asking for an increase of as much as 500,000 in its authorized personnel strength.

This seeming paradox was explained this way today: The reductions in the monthly draft quotas are being made to prevent the navy from going over its authorized strength of 3,389,000 by June 30. However, planners in the navy's bureau of personnel estimate that many more men will be needed to fill complement now contemplated.



CIRCLE TIGHTENS ON NAZIS—General Patton's Third army resumed its drive toward Berlin and a junction with the Russian armies, as the American First flanked the Harz mountains, and the American Ninth and British First stormed the outskirts of Hannover and Bremen. The map shows the relative positions of the various forces at the beginning of the day's advances.

Japs Put Up Furious Battle In Defense Of Okinawa Capital

Fighting on Okinawa island was reported approaching the fury of Iwo's bloody campaign today as American invasion troops drove into the first major Japanese defense line before Naha, the capital.

Dispatches from the front said casualties were mounting on both sides with the Americans killing from three to 18 Japanese for every American killed.

Units of the 24th corps penetrated the Japanese line in advances of 200 to 400 yards Sunday after capturing Uchitomi, four miles north of Naha, and Kaniku, four and a half miles northeast, Saturday.

The Japanese were fighting from caves, interlocking pillboxes and hills from which they could sweep the advancing Americans with a savage crossfire.

Matines in the central part of the island continued advances against light resistance. Their gains coupled with those in the south brought one-third or more of the island under American control.

Superfortresses and carrier planes followed up Saturday's

smashing victory over the Japanese fleet with new attacks on Japan and the Amami islands.

The carrier planes, which sank the Japanese battleship Yamato and five other warships, hit the Amami islands, sinking a small cargo vessel and a lugger.

The B-29's smashed at airfields on Kanyo and Kanyo east at the southern tip of Kyushu, presumably the bases from which the

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ALLIED MIGHT PULVERIZES RHINELAND CITY—This is all that remains of Wesel, focal point of U. S. forces which crossed the Rhine river north of the Ruhr. Allied tactical air power and artillery pulverized the city. The railroad track in foreground was gouged from its roadbed by tremendous force of explosives that raised night and day on the city. U. S. Air Force photo.

Sportsmen Form Game Council For Eastern Oregon

Judge R. J. Green Chosen Temporary Head of Board

R. J. Green of La Grande, circuit court jurist, yesterday was named temporary chairman of the Eastern Oregon Sportsmen's council, organized in Elgin for the purpose of representing sportsmen of the area in state game matters.

Vernon Kennedy of Pendleton was elected vice chairman and Tom Burton of Elgin, president of the Elgin Rod and Gun club, host club for the organization meeting yesterday, was named secretary-treasurer.

Nearly 100 sportsmen attended the session, hearing Virgil Bennington of Walla Walla, member of the Washington game commission, and R. D. McClellan of Enterprise, area representative on the Oregon game commission.

Season Split Sought

Extremely informative in his discussion, McClellan promised those present that he will again this year make an effort to convince the commission that a 10-day interval between the close of the deer season and the opening of the elk season is to the best interests of sportsmen and game alike. The overlapping season has resulted in too many "hot deer and cold elk," he said.

McClellan commended those present for the organization of the new council, declaring it a project which he had felt necessary for some time and urging delegates to complete organization.

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Miners, Operators Near Agreement

WASHINGTON, April 9 (UP)—Chairman Ezra Van Horn announced today that the soft coal wage conference had reached "tentative understanding" on all but one of the major issues in the prolonged contract negotiations.

Van Horn, speaking for both sides, said agreement had been reached "to such an extent" that negotiators for both the United Mine Workers and the operators will recommend acceptance to their respective policy committees later this afternoon.

U. S., British Troops Storm Outskirts of Bremen, Hannover

PARIS, April 9 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton renewed his march on Berlin today, wheeling forward up to six miles on a 45-mile front within 120-odd miles of the Nazi capital toward which four allied armies were racing flank-to-flank.

Patton's U. S. third army broke its temporary halt enforced by taut supply lines as the American first army on its left charged out of its Weser river bridgehead and drove eastward 18 miles in a flanking drive around the Harz mountains. Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' forces speared to within 70 miles of Magdeburg, Elbe river stronghold on the outer approaches to Berlin.

The American ninth army farther northwest and the British second army beyond it stormed the outskirts of burning Hannover and Bremen. Elements of both forces were pushing toward Brunswick, 104 miles short of Berlin.

Thousands of allied planes ranged ahead of the allied armies, stroving devastation in their path. The heaviest blow was dealt at the great port of Hamburg, where British heavies loosed 11-ton earthquake bombs on Nazi U-boat lairs.

Air Fields Battered

Fleets of American warplanes totaling more than 2,000 swarmed beyond the battle lines and bombed 10 German airfields around Munich in a new bid to knock the limping Nazi air force out of the final battle of Germany.

Front dispatches revealed that Patton's third army, shaking off the shackles which had held it down since last week, had pushed ahead along a 45-mile front between points 10 miles east of Muehlhausen and the same distance east of Suhl.

It was in the area of Schleithim, 126 miles southwest of Berlin, that the third army last week made the closest allied approach to the German capital from the west. Today's dispatches did not make clear exactly how much the advance measures in the Schleithim sector. It appeared likely that the gap between Patton and Berlin was narrowed to a little more than 120 miles.

All Elements Advance
Patton's troops pushed two miles to the vicinity of Kletteditz, 12 miles southeast of Muehlhausen. Other units moved into the area of Nottleben, five miles northeast of Gotha. Elements of the 89th division in a four-mile gain reached Crawinkel, 11 miles south of Gotha. Troops of the 87th advanced six miles east to the area of Stutzhau, 12 miles south of Gotha.

Ninetyth infantry forces gained three miles to the area of Stutzhau, seven miles north.

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Thousands Flee Mississippi Flood

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 9 (UP)—More than 1,250,000 acres of Louisiana farmland was under water today as rescue workers prepared to meet the threat of unprecedented river crests during the week.

Crests far over anything ever recorded which threatened to burst through the vast levee systems at many points will begin passing over the heavier populated sections of the state this week.

John Figg, of the Red Cross staff, reported considerably more than 25,000 persons had been evacuated and that the Red Cross was operating about 35 refugee tent camps throughout the stricken area. Red Cross officials were expecting to evacuate 60,000 persons before the flood danger passes.

Miss Mary Jasper and Miss Ruth Barlow, both of La Grande high school were featured entertainers for the day. Miss Jasper played two piano selections that were enthusiastically received.

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GENERAL IS PROMOTED

WASHINGTON, April 9 (UP)—President Roosevelt today nominated Brig. Gen. Claude A. Larkin, 53, of 8007 southwest Cashmir Lane, Portland, Ore., for promotion to major general.