

YANKS REACH ELBE

Essen Is Captured; 9th Army Only 63 Miles From Berlin

PARIS, April 11 (UP)—The ninth army's second armored division in one of the most spectacular drives of the war tonight raced to the banks of the Elbe river at Magdeburg, 63 miles west of Berlin.

The Elbe is the last water line barring the American advance upon the reich capital.

The second armored's advance was one of the most dashingly in a campaign that rapidly was developing into a speed race along the super-highways that Adolf Hitler once built for the use of the Wehrmacht.

Far behind the American spearhead, other ninth army elements captured Essen, Germany's greatest manufacturing city and heart of the industrial Ruhr. It was captured by the 17th airborne division.

The American first army thrust forward within 140 miles of a juncture with the Red army and the third army started a three-division armored race that put them up to 20 miles closer toward Berlin.

Red Army Drives Westward After Capturing Vienna

LONDON, April 11 (UP)—The Red army captured half of last German stronghold in Vienna today and wheeled a big force of Cossack cavalry up to the Berlin front in evident readiness for a sweep west to meet the Anglo-American forces.

LONDON, April 11 (UP)—An Austrian broadcast said today that the last three Nazi-held districts of Vienna have been cleared, presumably completing the liberation of the Austrian capital.

Radio sender Austria said the Leopoldstadt (second) and Brigittenau (20th) districts, both between the Danube river canal and the river itself, and the Floridsdorf (21st) district east of the river finally had been liberated.

Occupation of the remainder of Vienna's 21 districts—all those west of the river and canal—was completed yesterday by Marshal Fedor I. Tolbukhin's Russian Third Ukrainian army.

Tolbukhin's forces, without waiting for the mop-up of Vienna, already have driven beyond St. Pölten, 32 miles west of the Austrian capital, Stockholm said. St. Pölten lies 201 miles east of Munich, 141 miles from Berchtesgaden and some 260 miles from American Third army spearheads.

Hitler Overthrow Rumored; Himmler Takes Leadership

LONDON, April 11 (UP)—Evidence has reached official quarters in London that the Nazis are shoving aside Adolf Hitler, possibly in favor of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler, the press association said today.

"A serious split among Nazi leaders appears to be going on," the lobby correspondent of the press association said. "Foreign observers state Hitler now looks to be a 'dying man.'"

The correspondent said the Nazis appear to be "throwing over" Hitler as the German disaster in the west grows almost hourly. The dispatch did not elaborate on the reports.

Himmler, mentioned in the dispatch as possible successor to Hitler as supreme ruler in Germany, is interior minister and commander of the German home army in addition to head of the dreaded Gestapo.

Diplomatic sources gave serious attention to the press association dispatch, since that agency frequently is used to circulate information from official circles.

Gloria Dickson Is Burned To Death

HOLLYWOOD, April 11 (UP)—Blond film actress Gloria Dickson, 27, was burned to death last night in a fire that destroyed her palatial Hollywood home.

Her body, clad in a pink slip and charred almost beyond recognition, was found in an upstairs bathroom where she apparently had been trapped by the flames. Nearby was the body of her pet boxer dog.

Miss Dickson was alone in the house at the time. Her husband, William Fitzgerald, a marine veteran and former boxer, tried to enter the blazing mansion to rescue her. He collapsed when told of her death.

Firemen said the blaze apparently started in an overstuffed chair in the rumpus room.

La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1945

Weather
Data for 24 hours ending 7 a. m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 48
Minimum 31
Precipitation .37
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday.

FIVE CENTS

La Grande To Get U. S. Housing

American Advance On Naha Stalled By Jap Garrison

Little Opposition
Met in Other
Island Sectors

By United Press
The American drive on Naha in southern Okinawa stalled against savage Japanese resistance today but invasion forces continued gains in other sectors with practically no opposition.

To the north marines captured a submarine base on Unten bay in a mile and a half advance. Torpedoes and mines were seized but the Japanese had removed all submarines and other craft.

Army troops opened the entrance to Nakagusuku bay, one of the best naval anchorages south of Japan, by an amphibious landing Tuesday on Tsugen (Tsukata) island, about 10 miles off the southeast Okinawa coast.

Only moderate resistance was encountered and officers expected the enemy to be cleared from the island soon.

Other troops had captured almost two thirds of the bay's shoreline and Tokyo said American warships already were operating in the bay.

Troops of the 24th army corps battled to crack the Japanese defense lines four miles above the island capital, Naha.

Southern Luzon Cleared

In the Philippines, American troops crushed the last organized Japanese resistance on southern Luzon and seized control of the Sulu archipelago in the south by occupying Jolo island.

Other troops landed on Busuanga island, north of American controlled Palawan across the Sulu sea from Mindanao and ended Japanese control of 3,000 lepers in the Culion colony.

American bombers from the Philippines continued neutralization attacks on Formosa and sank or damaged three more Japanese cargo vessels in maintaining the aerial blockade of China sea shipping.

Radio Tokyo today identified three American carriers, which it claimed were sunk off Okinawa Friday, as the Essex, the converted carrier Langley and the auxiliary carrier Hipper.

Coal Wage Pact Adopted As U. S. Seizes 235 Mines

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—Soft coal producers and the United Mine workers prepared today to ratify a new wage contract estimated by operators to mean an average daily raise of \$1.30 for miners and a \$150,000,000 a year expense for the industry.

Negotiators for the two parties reached agreement last night shortly after the government seized 235 coal mines that had been beset by wildcat strikes traceable in part to the uncertainty of the nearly six weeks of wage discussions.

The seized mines were located in seven states—Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama, Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky—and for the most part were the so-called captive mines operated by steel companies.

School Aides To Hold Conferences

Dr. Ivan C. Milhous, acting supervisor of elementary education in Oregon, and Dr. Robert Anderson, state supervisor of curriculum and publication, will be at the office of County School Superintendent Ethel Hansen, from 1 to 5 p. m. Friday, with copies of the new language art textbooks.

They will discuss problems relative to the purchase and use of these books. Principals, superintendents and teachers in Union county have been invited to confer with them.



LOOK IN YOUR CLOSETS!—Henry J. Kaiser, famous shipbuilder, who heads the United national clothing collection, exhibits an official poster calling attention to the drive to obtain 150,000,000 pounds of clothing and shoes to be sent to the needy and destitute civilians of war devastated areas.

Hitler's Birthday Is Only Friday To Countrymen

By United Press
April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday, will be like any other day in Germany, according to radio reports.

BBC reported today that there would be no holiday on Hitler's 56th birthday. The German minister of the interior has ordered work to go on as usual because of "war necessity," the broadcast said.

New Officers Are Seated At Junior Chamber Dinner

Price Schroeder was installed as president of the junior chamber of commerce succeeding Tom Harper at a dinner meeting last night in the Stein coffee shop banquet room.

Other officers to serve during the coming year are: Chet Peterson, first vice-president; Vern Van Vranken, second vice-president; Howard Fisk, secretary; Mark Cunningham, treasurer; Dale Standley, Dennis Miller, Arlo Noyes and Eddie Hoffmann, directors.

Appointed to the committee to work on the paper drive were Dennis Miller, chairman, Moyle Anderson and Henry Lorenz. Mervin Mortensen was appointed junior chamber representative for the campaign.

Capt. Tom Blackburn, recently returned from the European theater was a guest. A motion picture on the Amazon river was shown.

Senators Dislike OPA Policies, Voice 'Housecleaning' Threats

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—Senate food investigation today threatened legislative action to make OPA obey congress, and advocated "kicking out OPA officials" as a starter.

Members of the food investigating committee denounced the agency for its failure to give price relief to meat packers and for maintaining that the meat market was mostly "sheer rumors."

More fireworks were indicated as the committee continued its investigation.

Chairman Elmer Thomas, D., Okla., said congress never intended that OPA fix prices that would "force meat packers to bankruptcy." But OPA officials, he added, have "set themselves up higher than anybody."

War Relief Drive Brings Half Ton Of Used Clothing

Sorting and packaging of the first 1,000 pounds of used clothing and shoes for the United national clothing collection in La Grande was announced today by A. B. Olson, co-chairman of the campaign.

The half-ton of articles for destitute peoples of liberated countries was prepared by members of the American Legion auxiliary in the receiving depot in the L. C. Smith building yesterday afternoon.

The sorting and packing will be handled next Tuesday by members of the Eagles' auxiliary, on April 24 by the auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and on May 1 by the Neighborhood club.

Cove, Union Join Drive

Lynn Larson, co-chairman of the campaign, announced the appointment of Morton Davis as chairman for the Union area, and school superintendent Harry Dawson as chairman for the Cove district.

Olson said while the initial showing in the campaign is gratifying, a far greater amount is needed. To this end the campaign will continue throughout the month, he said.

Clean, wearable clothing and shoes may be taken to the receiving depot on Depot street, near Washington avenue, between 8 a. m. and 6 p. m. or may be left at Olson's store, 1205 Adams avenue. Contributions which the donors cannot deliver will be called for, Olson said, if the committee is notified by calling the chamber of commerce, telephone 8.

Allies Roll Back German Defenders Of Italian Front

Gen. Clark Seeks
To Balk Flight
Of Big Force

ROME, April 11 (UP)—Both coastal wings of the German defenses in Italy swayed back today before concerted allied drives which captured the La Spezia naval base's outpost of Massa and gained two and a half miles through three Po valley towns.

The American Fifth army stormed through Massa, German stronghold 18 miles southeast of La Spezia, and on the other side of Italy the British Eighth army's new offensive across the Senio river toppled Lugo, 28 miles southeast of Bologna, Fusignano, four miles northeast of Lugo, and Cognola, four and a half south-east of Lugo.

Gen. Mark W. Clark's 15th army group is striking all along the line in a bid to whittle down the German might in Italy before it can fall back to join the homeland defenders in a last hopeless stand.

Troops of the Fifth army 442nd and 473rd regiments cracked through Massa against stubborn resistance. A communiqué said they struck on northwest toward La Spezia on the Ligurian sea and were well across the Frigido river.

The fall of Massa and the river crossing four miles to the northeast followed several days of bitter fighting. The resistance was built around heavy artillery batteries on Punta Bianca southeast of La Spezia, designed to guard both the land and sea approaches to the naval base.

Misconduct Laid To Army Officials In Ward Stores

CHICAGO, April 11 (UP)—Montgomery Ward and Co. officials today awaited a report from the army in reply to company charges that army officers controlling two of its seized properties were guilty of misconduct.

Harold L. Pearson, vice president and treasurer of Wards, demanded that the army take immediate action to "protect" the Ward properties at San Rafael, Calif., and Jamaica, N. Y.

In a letter to Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Byrd, army manager of the seized properties, Pearson said army operations at the two stores had impaired employee morale, interfered with service to customers and exposed the company to financial loss.

Pearson said the company had affidavits to prove that some of the controlling army officers "forced attentions on female employees in a manner destructive to store morale." He accused several of the officers at San Rafael of drunkenness and of entertaining girls in the store.

Night army personnel, accused of having drunken parties and entertaining women in the store, are not part of the regular "occupation staff," army sources in San Francisco said. Instead, they are drawn from a pool and may be changed frequently.

Loss Of Liberty Ship Is Revealed

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—The war shipping administration today announced the loss of the liberty ship Robert L. Vann in European waters.

The vessel went down after an underwater explosion believed to have been caused by a mine. There were no crew casualties.

WSA said the sinking occurred "some weeks ago."

BATTLESHIP IS SUNK

LONDON, April 11 (UP)—The air ministry announced today that aerial reconnaissance showed the German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer was sunk by RAF bombers in an attack on Kiel the night of April 9.

Federal Agency to Erect 40 Family Units as Soon As Congress Allots Funds

Limited approval has just been received for the public financing of new construction of 40 family units in La Grande, according to George W. Coplen, regional representative of the national housing agency. Release of the information was made in Portland today by James E. Maxwell housing representative in the La Grande district.

This construction has been authorized under the H-1 program of the NHA to provide family units for the in-migrant workers of the Union Pacific railroad and other essential industry in the La Grande locality.

The limited approval of this project by the NHA assures construction of this project as soon as funds become available for construction, Coplen said.

These funds have been tentatively approved by both houses of congress. The availability of this fund now awaits the composing of differences in the house and senate versions of the bill.

This limited approval will permit the preliminary work of site selection and project planning and speed actual construction when funds become available, according to Coplen. This work will be undertaken within a short time by the federal public housing authority, the constructing constituent of the NHA.

The approval of the bill by a joint senate-house conference committee is expected shortly after the house of representatives reconvenes from its present recess.

The construction will probably be of the single family demountable type unit. Under the permissive law, the construction must be removed two years after the end of the war.

Area Conference Of School Heads Set For Saturday

Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, has called a meeting of county school superintendents of 12 eastern Oregon counties at Eastern Oregon college Saturday, to hear reports of the White House conference which will be given by Maurice Laber, president of Oregon state teachers association, and Dr. Roben J. Maaske, president of the local college.

Dr. Maaske and Miss Laber were delegates to the conference. County superintendents also will discuss plans and programs for beautification and decoration of rural school buildings.

Putnam will preside at the sessions which will be held in room 11 of the administration building at the college.

School board members of second and third class districts are invited to attend.

Nazi Holdouts May Delay Relief Work

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—Congress was told today that prolonged resistance by isolated Nazi units may delay indefinitely the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration program for Europe.

President Roosevelt's second report to congress on U. S. participation in UNRRA said the relief agency may have to wait for the allies to "clean up pockets of resistance" before more than the present token relief can be channeled into liberated Europe.

The report pointed out, however, that even under the full program the liberated areas would get only two per cent of their relief and rehabilitation needs from UNRRA.

It revealed that up to Dec. 31, eleven countries had failed to complete their payments to UNRRA's \$10,000,000 administrative fund for 1944.

Russia, owing \$1,340,000, was the biggest debtor.

Series Of Peace Talks Scheduled By Church Aide

In a four-day series of addresses to various civic, educational and religious groups, Dr. James Millar, field representative of the Oregon council of churches, and widely known in the northwest as a lecturer, will arrive in La Grande Friday and will conclude his appearance on Monday.

Two of his chief appearances will be at the homemakers festival of the extension service units of the county on Saturday, and the joint civic luncheon on Monday under the auspices of the Lions club.

In addition he will speak at a student assembly at Eastern Oregon college, before the high school principals' conference, the "Father's Day" dinner in Doran hall at the college, the Presbyterian church, inter-denominational meeting of young people, social studies groups of the high school, student Christian association at the college, and the La Grande classroom teachers.

Millar was born in Ireland and See SERIES . . . Page 5

Dr. Millar

Taylor Resigns Commerce Post

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—Wayne C. Taylor today resigned as undersecretary of commerce and asked President Roosevelt to transfer him to a job concerned with "the international economic and social fields."

The president immediately nominated Alfred Schindler, St. Louis businessman, to succeed Taylor.

Taylor was picked for the undersecretaryship by former Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones.

Rotarians See Amazon Movie

Ceiling Price On Hogs Increased

WASHINGTON, April 11 (UP)—The government today increased the guaranteed price of live hogs 30 cents a hundredweight in an effort to boost the fall pig crop by 18 per cent.

Acting in the face of a food shortage, which senate investigators have blamed on federal policies, War Food Administrator Marvin Jones said the hog support price would go up immediately and be continued at the increased rate until Sept. 1, 1946.