

# EXTRA! ROOSEVELT DIES

## U.S. Vanguard 49 Miles From Berlin

### La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 1945

| Weather                                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Data for 24 hours ending at 7 a.m.                        |     |
| Maximum                                                   | 45  |
| Minimum                                                   | 29  |
| Precipitation                                             | .20 |
| Forecast: Unsettled with probable showers; warmer Friday. |     |

FIVE CENTS

## Reds Launch Drive West of Oder

### Death Comes Suddenly to Chief Executive as He Rests at 'Little White House' at Warm Springs

WASHINGTON, April 12 (UP) — President Roosevelt died this afternoon at Warm Springs, Ga., secretary Stephen T. Early announced here.

Death was caused by cerebral hemorrhage at the resort where the president had been resting for some ten days.

Vice President Harry S. Truman, who succeeds to the nation's highest office, was called to the White House immediately.

An immediate cabinet meeting was summoned.

The four Roosevelt sons, all of whom are in the service, were notified of the president's death by messages from Mrs. Roosevelt. She told them that the president had done his job to the end and that she knew he would want them to do so too.

Mrs. Roosevelt, Early and Adm. McIntyre, the president's physician, arranged to leave for Warm Springs by plane almost immediately.

"We expect to leave Warm Springs tomorrow morning by train for Washington," Early said. "Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon in the East room of the White House."

"Interment will be at Hyde Park Sunday afternoon. No detailed arrangements or exact times have been decided on as yet."

Mr. Roosevelt apparently had been wearied by his long trip to Yalta. Despite his confident assurances to congress in a report on the Big Three meeting that he never felt better, old time newsmen noted new lines in his face.

He went to Hyde Park twice for long week end rests in the weeks after his return from Yalta and then went to Warm Springs March 29th for a more extended rest.

Members of the cabinet began arriving at the White House within minutes after the announcement was made.

WARM SPRINGS, Ga., April 12 (UP) — Franklin D. Roosevelt, president for 12 of the most momentous years in this country's history, died suddenly at 3:35 p. m. (CWT) in a small room in the "Little White House."

Mr. Roosevelt had been in Warm Springs—which he liked to call his "second home"—since March 30. The week preceding he had spent at his home in Hyde Park, N. Y.

He was 63 years of age and served as president longer than any other American.

With the president at the time of his death was Cmdr. Howard G. Bruenn, who was on the staff of Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntyre, the president's personal physician.

News of Mr. Roosevelt's death came from Secretary William D. Hassett. He called in three press association reporters who had accompanied the president here and said:

"It is my sad duty to inform you that the president died at 3:35 of a cerebral hemorrhage."

Simultaneously the news was telephoned to the White House in Washington and announced there too.

In Washington the cabinet was immediately convened in emergency session at the White House with Vice President Harry S. Truman, who will become the nation's new president.

The president had spent a leisurely two weeks in Warm Springs. At no time was there any indication that he was sick, beyond the fact that he had not made his usual visits to the Warm Springs swimming pool where in 1924 he began his life-long battle to overcome the withering effects of infantile paralysis.

Almost daily during his stay the president took long automobile rides in the soft Georgia spring sun and had been keeping up constantly with developments in Washington and abroad by telephone and through official papers flown to him every morning.

Dr. Bruenn said that at 9:30 a.m. today the president was "in excellent spirits" and showed no evidence whatever of feeling badly.

Shortly before 1 p.m. the president was sitting for sketches to be made by an artist.

At about 1 o'clock the president, according to Bruenn, suddenly complained of a "very severe occipital headache." This is a headache in the back of the head.

About 3:15 the president lost consciousness and Bruenn was with him by 3:30.

The president never regained consciousness and died without pain at 3:35.

On April 5 the president conferred for a day with President Sergio Osmeña of the Philippine commonwealth. He told Osmeña that he hoped the Philippine independence would be restored far in advance of the congressional statutory date of July 4, 1946.

At the conference with Osmeña Mr. Roosevelt reaffirmed his firm intention to see that Japan and all of her mandates would be under complete allied control and policing for an

#### Death Closes Colorful Career



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

#### Epoch Marking Parleys



ON THE HIGH SEAS: "Atlantic Charter"—Aug. 9-11, 1941.



WASHINGTON: United Nations formed.—Dec. 22, 1941.



WASHINGTON: Mapping North Africa attack.—June 1943, 1944

### Zhukov Is On March To Capital

LONDON, April 12 (UP)—Moscow reported today that violent fighting had blazed up in the Red army's Oder river bridgehead on the approaches to Berlin as American mobile forces raced toward the Nazi capital from the west.

"Soviet troops are waging fierce battles beyond the Oder on the approaches to Berlin," a Moscow broadcast said.

The report indicated that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov had lighted the fuses of his long-brewing push against Berlin, synchronizing it with the ninth U. S. ninth army drive to squeeze the heart of nazidom in a nut-cracker.

#### Great Force Massed

Zhukov's reported onslaught hit the German defenses in the Oder valley about 30 miles due east of Berlin. There he had massed in his bridgehead across the Oder a great array of Soviet troops and arms. Only yesterday formidable forces of Cossack cavalry were reported on the move, evidently into positions to spearhead a lightning sweep westward.

The Soviet high command never officially reported the Oder crossing in front of Berlin. But Berlin and Moscow reports have made it evident that Zhukov has won a springboard beyond the river for the climactic assault, now apparently beginning.

#### Reds Take Klessin

The Germans reported last night that their army had lost Klessin, on the Berlin side of the Oder, 3 miles east of the capital. In the Danube valley west of virtually conquered Vienna, another Red army push was aimed at Berchtesgaden and the Bavarian Alps, touted as a sanctuary for the Nazi hierarchy.

Soviet armor was reported far up the Danube from Vienna and a Nazi commentator, Lt. Col. Alfred von Olberg, bluntly admitted that the Germans were retreating in Austria.

Von Olberg said that stiff resistance between the Danube and Drava in Austria "merely screens See REDS . . . Page 7

### Presbyterians Of Eastern Oregon Will Meet Here

Presbyterians of eastern Oregon will assemble in La Grande April 18 for the annual spring meeting of the Presbytery and the women's presbytery, in connection with which sessions of the youth Presbytery also are scheduled, all in the First Presbyterian church.

The convocation will open at 7:30 o'clock next Wednesday evening with Rev. Sydney A. Walker of Baker as presiding pastor. Highlights of the initial session will be a sermon by the moderator, Rev. Earle P. Cochran of Pendleton, a communion service conducted by Rev. M. A. Talney, and election of a moderator.

The Thursday sessions will open at 8:30 a. m., with a devotional service conducted by Rev. Charles Eble of the Indian mission at Pendleton. Various reports will be made and a commissioner to the general assembly elected. Reporting on various aspects of the church work will be Rev. F. L. Swanson of Burns, stated clerk, Rev. J. K. Walpole of Pilot Rock, Rev. Talney and Rev. Cochran.

A dinner will be served at 6:30 See PRESBYTERIANS Page 5

### Ninth Hurdles Elbe As Patton Races to Join Soviet Forces

PARIS, April 12 (UP) — U. S. ninth army mobile forces broke across the Elbe river at Magdeburg today and raced for Berlin, only 49 miles or less ahead of the rampaging second armored division by unofficial account.

The speed at which the armored forces were advancing gave rise to the belief that they might actually reach the German capital by nightfall.

Three other allied armies were surging eastward on either side of Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's lightning columns, chopping deeper by the hour into the waistline of unoccupied Germany, already less than 100 miles wide between the Russian and American forces.

The U. S. first and third armies advanced up to 26 miles along a linked front aimed at Leipzig and Halle. Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's third army armor broke across the Saale river at several points and to the north the ninth armored division of Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' first army reached the Saale at Naumburg, 23 miles southwest of Leipzig.

Berlin reported that Patton's left wing had swung up to Lightenberg, 19 miles from the Czech frontier, 70 miles northeast of Nuernberg and 40 miles south-east of Jena.

#### British Capture Celle

On the north end of the Berlin-bound front, Scottish troops of the British second army took the lead. They captured Celle on the Aller river and speared within 130 miles of Berlin.

First army front reports said the ninth armored division set the pace for Hodges' men. It dashed forward 28 miles from its bivouacs of last night to the Naumburg area, 121 miles from the Red army lines across the German corridor.

Front dispatches said the first army rolled up impressive gains along its entire front and was finding virtually no resistance. The third and ninth armored

LONDON, April 12 (UP)—German Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels said tonight the war is in its final phase and cannot last much longer.

"This, then, is the decisive phase," Goebbels said in his weekly propaganda ministry organ Das Reich. "Let us face it with pride and character." He emphasized that life under the conquerors would be "hell on earth."

divisions were spearheading the first army push. The third picked up 22 miles since last night, pushing beyond Sangerhausen, 10 miles west of Eisenach and 25 miles from Halle.

#### Reach Berlin Plain

Third army reports said that despite a blackout on locations, it could be revealed that elements of both the fourth and sixth armored divisions crossed the Saale river at several points in the Jena-Naumburg area. They pressed on and reached the rim of the Berlin plain at undisputed points.

Since Patton resumed his march yesterday morning, the fourth armored had gained 30 miles and the sixth armored 45 miles.

A Nazi radio commentator said the allies might mass for a concentrated push through Leipzig area in an attempt to link up with the Russians.

The slashing drive across Berlin's last western water barrier raised the imminent threat of disaster for perhaps 1,000,000 Germans facing the Red army along the Oder river line 117 miles to the east.

Four more ninth army divisions were crowding on the heels of the second armored division, ready to swing across the Elbe and break into the rear of the German's Oder river defenses.

### Commission Sells City Real Estate

City commissioners, meeting last evening in the city hall, sold lots 11 and 12 of block 2, Riverside addition to Gerald L. and Alice Waite for \$100 cash.

Lots 2 and 3 in block 2 Young's subdivision of Coggins second addition were deeded to Alma Campbell on the completion of her contract.

March bills, amounting to \$3,103.73 were approved.

City Manager Ed H. Ford reported receipts of \$1,835.11 and disbursements, \$6,288.65. Water receipts were \$1,969.90 and water disbursements, \$1,391.19.

### Hitler Takes Command for 'Armageddon'

LONDON, April 12 (UP)—Stockholm reports said today that Adolf Hitler and his henchmen personally would lead the Nazis in their Armageddon at Leipzig, throwing all their secret weapons and possibly poison gas into a climactic battle to the death.

The Stockholm Tidningen quoted military sources in Berlin as saying that the final decisive battle of Germany would be fought on the historic Napoleonic battlefield at Leipzig.

Hitler, high party members and Nazi gauleiters or district leaders intend to die with Germany on the last battlefield, the unconfirmed Stockholm report said.

Face to face with utter defeat and extinction, the Nazi chiefs then were reported preparing to throw every last ounce of their fast dwindling resources into their valiant effort.

Berlin itself indicated that the Nazis believed their doom to be at hand.

Nazi broadcasts ordered all the German people to become spies for the army, indicating that their field lines and intelligence were in chaos and they did not know where the speeding Allied armies might strike next.

### School Principals To Meet Here For District Confab

The eighth annual regional conference of elementary school principals will be held at eastern Oregon college Saturday, under the joint auspices of the department of elementary school principals of Oregon state teachers' association and the state department of education.

Improving the administration and organization of the elementary schools will be the conference theme.

Work and plans of the state elementary principals' association will be discussed by George W. Lusby, state president of the elementary principals. Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, will talk on "Significant School Legislation."

President Robert J. Maske of Eastern Oregon college, will be the luncheon speaker and has chosen as his subject, "You and Your College."

During the afternoon session, See SCHOOL . . . Page 5

### Manila Atrocities Lead Spain To Break With Japan

MADRID, April 12 (UP) — Spain has made its first break with an axis power. It severed diplomatic relations with Japan last night because Japanese troops murdered Spanish citizens at Manila.

The action was announced in an official statement released after a cabinet meeting at El Pardo palace with Generalissimo Francisco Franco presiding.

See Pages 5-7 for More Pictures And Stories