

# Americans Poised to Enter Berlin

## 9th Army Reported Hours Away From Battered Capital

LONDON, April 14 (UP) — A radio Luxembourg broadcast said today that American tank spearheads have driven to within 13 miles of Berlin.

PARIS, April 14 (UP) — Three American armies ripped almost at will through the German defenses before Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden today in an all-out drive for a juncture with the Red army that might collapse the crumbling Wehrmacht.

A rigid military security blackout cloaked the progress of the ninth army's second armored and 83rd infantry divisions beyond the Elbe, but London boomed with rumors that an entry into Berlin was perhaps only hours away.

ABSIE, the American broadcasting station in Europe, said the ninth army march into Berlin was expected imminently.

Dispatches from the black-out ninth army front said doughboys of the 83rd infantry division burst across the Elbe at Barby, 15 miles southeast of Magdeburg and 57 miles southwest of Berlin.

The Yanks were reported closing up fast in the wake of the second armored divisions, whose tank columns crossed the river at an undisclosed point between Barby and Magdeburg 48 hours ago.

Headquarters refused to confirm reports that the American spearheads were barely 13 miles west of the wrecked enemy capital, but sensational London reports said Britain had been alerted for imminent news of triumph.

## Great Drive Is Launched By Red Army

LONDON, April 14 (UP) — The German radio said tonight that Russian troops were within 26 miles of Berlin while the Russian communiqué claimed the forcing of the Treisner river had placed Red army troops 125 miles east of Berchtesgaden.

LONDON, April 14 (UP) — The German Transocean news agency said today that Red Army troops scored a deep breach in the Nazi defenses around Sankt Polten, 31 miles west of Vienna and 132 miles from Berchtesgaden.

Other Nazi broadcasts said today Red armies were opening a general offensive on a 300-mile front arching across Germany less than 30 miles from Berlin and 90 from the American Third army.

Soviet forces of the southeastern front were sweeping across Austria and Moravia in a race with the Nazis for the Bavarian redoubt. Their pace was speeded by the fall of Vienna and a crossing of the Morava river before Brno.

An official Russian communiqué broadcast by Moscow radio, said the Red army had captured Lidice, Czechoslovakian "town of death" where the Nazis murdered the entire male population in reprisal for the assassination of German protector of Bohemia-Moravia.

The entire town of Lidice was seen by RUSSIAN ... Page 7

## Fire And Wreck Disrupt Traffic On S. F. Bay Bridge

SAN FRANCISCO, April 14 (UP) — Rail and motor traffic was resumed today over the eight-mile San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge after fire on the lower deck charred two miles of railroad ties and tied up transit-bay commuters for hours last night.

The fire is believed to have been caused by a short circuit on a third rail.

## Britain Is Alert as 'Great Events' Loom

LONDON, April 14 (UP) — Britain was torn today between mourning the death of President Roosevelt and a mounting tension fed by persistent and thinly veiled hints in the press that the formal end of the war in Europe might come at any time.

Prime Minister Churchill was described as persuaded by the possible imminence of great events to cancel the preparation of a plane and specially picked crew to take him to the United States for Mr. Roosevelt's funeral.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was commissioned instead to represent the British government. Early today an announcement said he had departed by plane for the United States.

Churchill ordered arrangements made for a flight to America, Broadbent said. A Churchill awoke in the morning, he still intended to fly to the United States. But within a few hours urgent dispatches from the front reached him, Broadbent said. He cancelled the plans for the trip because he decided that important decisions might be required of him at any moment.

## Goebbels Sees End Near, Pins Hopes on Hitler and Civilians

Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels tacitly resigned the fate of Germany today in the hands of the "savior" Adolf Hitler.

In an interview with the Japanese News Agency, Goebbels admitted that Germany was at the point of exhaustion and that the very existence of the German nation was threatened.

"I know that our nation is now engaged to the point of exhaustion but I also know for certain that our savior, Fuehrer Hitler, will find a way out of this dilemma for all of us," Goebbels said.

**Weather**  
Data for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m.  
Temperatures:  
Maximum 49  
Minimum 31  
Forecast: Partly cloudy with possible showers tonight and Sunday.

# La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Willamette Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 14, 1945

FIVE CENTS

## Nation Pays Homage As Last Rites are Held for Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, April 14 (UP) — An Episcopal funeral ritual for Franklin D. Roosevelt was read over his flag-draped casket today in the flower-banked east room of the White House.

The solemn service for the dead was spoken in the presence of President Truman, Mrs. Roosevelt, members of the Roosevelt family, the leaders of the government and representatives of foreign states. Among them was Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who flew from London.

It was the last rite in the nation's capital for the man who through 12 years, one month and eight days of peace and war had led his country — longer than any other man since the founding of the republic.

## Japanese Premier Extends Sympathy To People Of U. S.

By United Press  
Japanese Premier Admiral Kantaro Suzuki has extended his "profound sympathy" to the American people on the death of President Roosevelt, the Japanese Domei agency said today.

An English-language dispatch reported by the FCC quoted Suzuki as telling a Domei correspondent:

"I must admit Roosevelt's leadership has been very effective and has been responsible for the Americans' advantageous position today. For that reason I can easily understand the great loss his passing means to the American people and my profound sympathy goes to them."

Domei reported that Suzuki "candidly" said, however, that he did not expect America's war efforts against Japan to change because of the president's death.

## School Leaders Meet Here For Area Conferences

School superintendents of eastern Oregon counties today attended a meeting called by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, at Eastern Oregon college, to hear reports by Dr. Roben J. Maaske and Miss Maurine Lober on the White House conference on rural education.

Dr. Maaske, president of the local college, who was a delegate to the conference, spoke briefly, giving reports on the conference. Miss Lober, president of Oregon state teachers association, spoke on "Follow Up Meets Held in Oregon on the White House Conference."

Mrs. Lucy Rogers, superintendent in Morrow county, this afternoon was to lead a discussion on "Next Steps—application in eastern Oregon counties."

The superintendents also were to join the school principals this afternoon in Ackerman school to hear Dr. James Millar, Oregon council of churches, speak on "Tasks in Our Times."

Meeting coincidentally in the Ackerman school were approximately 35 persons at a regional conference of elementary school principals, held under the auspices of the department of education. See SCHOOLS ... Page 7

## Fire Started by U. S. Bombers Spreads to Hirohito's Palace

GUAM, April 14 (UP) — Hundreds of superfortresses set fire to a five-square-mile arsenal area of Tokyo today and the Japanese reported the flames spread to the Mikado's palace.

(Tokyo broadcasters said Emperor Hirohito and his family were unharmed, but they denounced the bombing as an "atrocious action" prompted by a "disappointment" over the death of President Roosevelt.)

A Tokyo communiqué said the fire broke out in part of the arsenal within the Imperial palace, the Omiya palace and the Asasaha detachment palace but "were soon distinguished."

The main building and sanctuary of the Grand Meiji shrine, one of Japan's greatest memorials, was "burned to ashes," the communiqué said.

Omiya palace, adjoining the Imperial palace, is the residence of the Empress dowager. Explosions from the huge fires that ripped through the vital war production area of Tokyo were heard more than 100 miles away.



TRUMAN BECOMES PRESIDENT—As his wife and daughter, Margaret, look on, Harry S. Truman, takes the oath as 32nd president of the United States. It was administered Thursday in the White House by Chief Justice Harlan Stone of the United States Supreme court.

## La Grande Pays Silent Tribute To Memory of Great President

Requiescat in peace. May he rest in Peace — This phrase in many variations was in the minds and on the lips of a sorrowing nation today as funeral services were conducted in the executive mansion in the nation's capital for Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In La Grande, as in hamlet and metropolis alike throughout the land, and on the battlefronts of the world and on ships at sea, Americans turned their thoughts to the departed president — the friend of the "forgotten man."

For ten minutes business was halted as this city's merchants, their staffs and patrons paused in silent meditation who but a few hours ago was called unexpectedly by his maker.

Special memorial services were conducted in thousands of churches and movie houses, and other places of entertainment joined in wholesale shutdowns out of respect to Mr. Roosevelt.

War plants throughout the nation, urged by the war production board to continue operation as their tribute, planned periods of silence of three to five minutes at the start of the Washington service.

In Chicago, New York and Hollywood all transportation facilities paused for one minute, and the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. observed a 30 second pause in all communications at that time.

Financial houses in the major cities suspended operations for the day. Commercial and business houses in New York and other large cities also closed down. Movie production in Hollywood was suspended until Monday.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York was joined by other governors in proclaiming a 30-day mourning period with flags at half-staff. Vice Admiral Emory See LA GRANDE ... Page 7

## American Forces Close In On Japs In Baguio Area

MANILA, April 14 (UP) — Elements of the 33rd division pushed within three miles today of Baguio in northern Luzon, once the Japanese headquarters in the Philippines.

The American troops battered through mountain terrain and against determined enemy resistance to capture Mount Calasag, last high point overlooking the city, former Philippines capital.

At the same time other American forces continued to forge ahead against stubborn opposition in the mountains south of Balete Pass. Japanese escape route into the Cagayan valley of northern Luzon. Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communiqué said numerous enemy infiltrations and parties were destroyed in the Balete Pass area.

The communiqué also revealed that two American columns were rapidly closing a high-altitude gap in the Japanese lines on the Luzon side. The American division had gained control of Baguio island in the central Philippines.

GUAM, April 14 (UP) — Troops of three army divisions battled slowly through southern Okinawa today after turning back a strong Japanese counter-attack along the Naha defense line.

The attack was made by landing 300 and 750 Japanese and a large proportion of them were killed in the futile attempt to check the American drive.

## New Political Era Expected With Truman

WASHINGTON, April 14 (UP) — Despite invitations to the Roosevelt cabinet to "stay on," Washington observers today forecast a new political era dawning and a time of new political stars.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is still dominant here, even in death. But this is his last appearance in Washington.

President Harry S. Truman joined today in the rites for the man who last July decided that he should have his chance to be vice president of the United States.

After tomorrow, the complexion of this government will begin to change as the man from Missouri and his men take over.

"Cabinet Government" Expected  
There is talk already of "going back to cabinet government."

That means a cabinet of stronger men on the average than Mr. Roosevelt was accustomed to have around him. They would be men who would expect to participate more fully in forming policy than the late president sometimes permitted his official counselors to do.

The unofficial cabinet will change too, in time, and Mr. Truman will have his own men around him.

Fundamental Aim Remains  
Fundamental in the policies of the Truman administration as in See NEW POLITICAL ... Page 8

It was the sense of the meeting that there is little chance for an experienced man to make a success in agriculture, and that it would be better for a veteran desiring to engage in this industry to lease a farm or obtain employment with a successful farmer for a year or more and learn the fundamentals of farming and whether they are suited to this type of work.

In neither event, it was pointed out, the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights would be available to the veteran for purchase of farm machinery and livestock.

Educational Loans Urged  
It was the consensus that veterans with no farm experience be urged to take advantage of the provisions of the bill for educational purposes.

County Agent R. W. Schaad read and discussed the report of the advisory committee, and Freeman Dull of the Farm security administration told of the work of the certification committee, through which veterans' applications for loans for farm purchases must be cleared.

Hugh Hulse, chairman of the advisory committee presided. Other members of the advisory group are James Wilson of North Powder, Henry Hermann, Island City, Theo. Edvalsen and Merton Davis of Union, and Schaad.

On the certification committee are Doll, S. E. Starr, Harry Schwebke, Imbler, Lee Childers of Cove and George Tis of La Grande.

The entering of Hlaingdet, eight miles east of Thazi, by troops of the 14th army opened the way for a drive eastward along the road leading into the Shan states.

## Attack Launched In Bordeaux Area

LONDON, April 14 (UP) — About 1,150 U. S. heavy bombers attacked the German pocket on the Gironde estuary northwest of Bordeaux today and supreme headquarters in Paris said troops under French Gen. Edgar De Larminat opened a limited attack in that area.

United Press Correspondent Joseph W. Gregg filed a dispatch from the Gironde area which said the attack was aimed at opening up the waterway to the Port of Bordeaux, blockaded by the German pocket since the sweep across France last fall.

A friendship snarl obscured the status of Gregg's dispatch. SHEAF denied it, but no particulars were given. Paris sources said Gen. De Larminat released the dispatch prematurely.

Three and a half hours after its denial, SHEAF said a limited attack began in an unspecified sector of the Gironde area.

Participation of the communities of Imbler, Elgin and Summerville in the United national clothing collection was announced today by A. B. Olson, co-chairman of the general campaign committee.

He announced that Albert Hopkins, school superintendent at Imbler, is the chairman for that community, and that a receiving station has been established in the Imbler school.

Mrs. W. H. Rollins, Summerville chairman, announced clothing may be deposited at the Summerville grocery.

The campaign in Elgin is sponsored by the Women's improvement club, with Mrs. W. V. Connor and Mrs. Bernal Hug as co-chairmen.

## Veterans Advised Against Immediate Farm Purchases

Recommendations that returning veterans who are inexperienced in agriculture be discouraged from purchasing farms were approved at a joint meeting of the Union county veterans advisory committee and the county loan certification committee at a joint meeting Thursday night in the city hall in Union.

It was the sense of the meeting that there is little chance for an experienced man to make a success in agriculture, and that it would be better for a veteran desiring to engage in this industry to lease a farm or obtain employment with a successful farmer for a year or more and learn the fundamentals of farming and whether they are suited to this type of work.

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"I know that our nation is now engaged to the point of exhaustion but I also know for certain that our savior, Fuehrer Hitler, will find a way out of this dilemma for all of us," Goebbels said.

The Japanese broadcast, heard by United Press in San Francisco, quoted Goebbels as saying that the German people should resist the Allied offensive by their own efforts and not rely upon their army.

The prospects of the German resistance have been reduced by the recent loss of territories and the most pressing problem now is how to save the threatened existence of the German people themselves," he said.

"All Germans should prepare themselves to stake their lives for this end ... This resistance must be national—not only of the armed forces but the resistance of the whole people."