

Ernie Pyle

Troops Would
Like Okinawa
In Peacetime

By ERNIE PYLE

OKINAWA (By Navy Radio)—We camped one night on a little hillside that led up to a bluff overlooking a small river. The bluff dropped straight down for a long way. Up there on top of the bluff it was just like a little park.

The bluff was terraced, although it wasn't farmed. The grass on it was soft and green. And those small, straight-limbed pine trees were dotted all over it.

Looking down from the bluff, the river made a turn and across it was an old stone bridge. At the end of the bridge was a village—or what had been a village.

It was now just a jumble of ashes and sagging thatched roofs from our bombardment. In every direction little valleys led away from the turn in the river.

It was as pretty and gentle a sight as you ever saw. It had the softness of antiquity about it and the miniature charm and daintiness that we see in Japanese prints. And the sad, uncanny silence that follows the bedlam of war.

A bright sun made the morning hot and a refreshing little breeze sang through the pine trees. There wasn't a shot nor a warlike sound within hearing. I sat on the bluff for a long time, just looking. It all seemed so quiet and peaceful. I noticed a lot of the marines sitting and just looking too.

You could come from a dozen different parts of America and still find scenery on Okinawa that looked like your country at home.

Southern boys say the reddish clay and the pine trees remind them of Georgia. Westerners see California in the green rolling hills, partly wooded, partly patch worked with little green fields. And the farmed plains look like our Midwest.

Okinawa is one of the few places I've been in this war where our troops don't grip about what an awful place it is. In fact most of the boys say they would like Okinawa if it were not at war with us and if the people weren't so dirty.

The countryside itself is neat and the little farms are well kept. See ERNIE PYLE . . . Page 6

No V-E Day Until Major Nazi Forces Are Wiped Out

PARIS, April 17 (UP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower will proclaim V-E day only after the last important German pockets on the western front have been wiped out.

He served notice to this effect at an interview at his field headquarters with a group of visiting American radio correspondents.

The war in Europe is not likely to end until allied troops have occupied Germany completely, he said. He doubted there ever would be a formal Nazi surrender.

"Nazi units, including divisions, corps, armies and finally army groups will give up separately as they exhaust ammunition and gasoline or find themselves hopelessly encircled," he said.

(Military and government sources in London warned there probably would be serious fighting in Germany "for many weeks" after Berlin has been captured. The announcement of V-E day even may be held up until German resistance has been cracked in Norway and Denmark, it was said.)

Churchill Says Death of FDR Is "Bitter Loss to Humanity"

LONDON, April 17 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill told commonsense today that he noticed President Roosevelt was ailing at Yalta, and left him at Alexandria with an "indefinable sense of fear that his health and strength were on the ebb."

Churchill spoke in commonsense of his "personal regard and affection beyond any power to express" for Mr. Roosevelt after attending memorial services at St. Paul's, where he wept openly.

Churchill said he received his last messages from Mr. Roosevelt last Thursday. They "showed no falling off in his accustomed clear vision and vigor upon perplexing and complicated matters."

Altogether, he said, he and Mr. Roosevelt had exchanged more than 1,700 messages. On the basis of these and his personal association with the president, he "perceived an admira-

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 17, 1945

Red Army 17 Miles From Berlin

Elbe River Defenses Crack

9th Army Fights for 4 Bridges

PARIS, April 17 (UP)—American ninth army tanks and infantrymen broke into Magdeburg from three sides today in a savage battle for the last four Elbe river bridges still standing on the road to Berlin, 60 miles to the northeast.

United Press War Correspondent Robert Verrill reported in a dispatch from Magdeburg this afternoon that the Americans were advancing rapidly through the flaming city after having broken the back of the Nazi defenses in a fierce street battle.

By late afternoon the enemy defenders, 2,000 to 4,000 strong, had been herded back almost to the river edge and their resistance was beginning to crack.

Major Breakthrough Looms
Verrill said the Nazis still had not blown up the four key bridges, raising the possibility of a major breakthrough that would spill the ninth army's full striking power across the Elbe on the direct road to Berlin.

Long columns of American heavy tanks were rolling in toward the Elbe bridges, smashing down Nazi barricades and clearing the way for the infantry.

The assault coincided with equally heavy American attacks on Leipzig and Nuremberg where other United States troops were striking furiously to link up with the Red armies in the east and block the Nazi escape routes into the Bavarian retreat.

Flee Toward Bavaria
Field dispatches revealed that tens of thousands of Germans were fleeing southward through the Oder-Elbe corridor toward Bavaria, with thousands more in full flight northward toward the Baltic coast in a last-minute race. See YANKS . . . Page 5

Truman Approves Lend-Lease Act

WASHINGTON, April 17 (UP)—President Truman today signed the lend-lease extension act. He said the lend-lease program "will be carried on until the unconditional surrender or complete defeat of Germany and Japan."

The signing produced a historical novelty — Mr. Truman's name appeared on the bill twice. He signed it originally as presiding officer of the senate, and then again today as president.

Mr. Truman in his senate role broke a tie vote to kill an amendment to the extension act that would have tightened restrictions on post-war use of lend-lease program until June 30, 1946.

Survivors include his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Dunn and three grandchildren, all residents of Scarsdale, N. Y.; three sisters, Mrs. Helm, Mrs. A. L. Means of Seattle and Miss Kate Stanfield of Fallbrook, Calif.; and one brother, Gerald E. Stanfield, prominent stockman of Weiser.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at Weiser. Interment was in the Weiser cemetery.

U. S. Airmen Bag 1,505 Nazi Planes

LONDON, April 17 (UP)—The U. S. eighth air force destroyed at least 200 grounded German planes today, according to preliminary reports, to add to the allied bag of 1,305 Nazi planes destroyed or damaged yesterday.

Today's blows against the stricken Luftwaffe were quick in the areas of Regensburg and in Czechoslovakia.

More than 1,000 Mustangs and Liberator bombers with 850 Thunderbolt fighters as escort attacked rail targets and an oil storage depot in Czechoslovakia and rail centers around Dresden.

Missouri Banker Named by Truman As Head of RFC

Old Friend Of President Gets Nomination

WASHINGTON, April 17 (UP)—John W. Snyder, St. Louis banker, was nominated by President Truman today to be federal loan administrator.

This was the first major appointment made by Mr. Truman since he became president. Snyder, vice-president of the First National bank of St. Louis, has been a friend of the president for more than 25 years.

As head of the multi-billion-dollar reconstruction finance corp. and other lending agencies, Snyder will fill the place left vacant by Fred M. Vinson's transfer to the post of war mobilization director.

From 1930 to 1937 Snyder was liquidator of national banks in the insolvent division of the United States comptroller of the currency.

From 1937 to 1940 he was manager of the St. Louis agency of the reconstruction finance corp. and in 1940 became executive vice-president and director of the defense plant corp. and assistant to the directors of the RFC. He went back to private banking in St. Louis on Jan. 1, 1943.

Last Rites Are Held for Former Senator Stanfield

Mrs. Carl G. Helm has returned from Weiser, Idaho, where she attended the funeral services of her brother, Robert Nelson Stanfield, 68, former U. S. senator from Oregon, who was found dead in his bed in Weiser Friday night of a heart attack.

Gerald E. Stanfield, a brother, said the former senator had suffered from heart trouble for 20 years.

He was born at Umatilla Landing, Oregon, July 9, 1877, a son of Robert Nelson Stanfield who located in Oregon in 1849. He was married in 1897 to Inez Hill, and for many years engaged in the livestock industry in eastern Oregon. In 1920 Stanfield's sheep holdings numbered 350,000 head and he was rated as the largest individual sheep owner in the world.

He served as a member of the Oregon state legislature for three terms and was speaker of the house of representatives. In 1920 he was elected U. S. senator from Oregon on the Republican ticket and served for six years.

Since retiring from politics he had devoted his time to livestock ranching and other business interests, and had made his home in Weiser for the last few years.

Stanfield was a life member of the Masonic and Elks fraternities, and was a member of the Episcopal church.

Survivors include his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Barbara Dunn and three grandchildren, all residents of Scarsdale, N. Y.; three sisters, Mrs. Helm, Mrs. A. L. Means of Seattle and Miss Kate Stanfield of Fallbrook, Calif.; and one brother, Gerald E. Stanfield, prominent stockman of Weiser.

Governor Becomes Grandpa of Twins

SALEM, Ore., April 17 (UP)—Twins, a boy and a girl, made Gov. Earl Snell twice a grandfather today, for the first time.

The children, son and daughter of William Earl Snell, a medical student at the University of Oregon, were born during the night in a Portland hospital.

The children's mother, the former Marylee Frye, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Fry, jr., of Salem.

Ernie Pyle Column Starts in Observer

Ernie Pyle's famous daily column describing life among our fighting men, which has won the plaudits of millions of readers, is presented today to its readers by the La Grande Evening Observer.

Pyle is now on the Pacific front, in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France won him enough honors for half a dozen men—the Pulitzer prize, the Raymond Clapper memorial award, and the National Headliners' club award for two successive years.

In accordance with its policy of presenting to its readers the best, the Evening Observer presents Ernie Pyle in today's issue. We hope you like and enjoy him.



President Truman Refuses to Discuss Probable Changes in Cabinet as He Meets Newsmen

WASHINGTON, April 17 (UP)—President Truman in his first press conference today gave whole-hearted endorsement to the foreign and domestic policies prevailing at the time he took office.

He said that he would not lift the ban on horse racing and that he thought the midnight curfew had done a lot of good for the morale of the country.

The president would not discuss any official appointments involving the cabinet or other top government personnel.

James W. Crowley Called by Death

James W. Crowley, 76, manager of the liquor store at Elgin, died Sunday at a local hospital after a short illness.

He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and had been a resident of Union and Wallawa counties for more than 30 years. When he came to La Grande about 30 years ago he was foreman of woods operations for the George Palmer lumber company, and later was co-owner and operator of a pool hall in Elgin. He was a member of the La Grande lodge of Elks.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. J. M. Goode and Mrs. James E. Colbert, both of Calais, Maine. Rosary will be said at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday in the Snodgrass funeral home and funeral services will be at 9 a. m. Thursday in the American Legion hall in Elgin. Father M. J. McMahon will officiate. Interment will be in the Elgin cemetery.

Peace-time U. S. Navy of 1,191 Combat Ships Planned

WASHINGTON, April 17 (UP)—A tentative navy plan for a post-war fleet of 1,191 combat ships — almost three times the size of the pre-war fighting fleet — was presented to congress today.

The public was given its first glimpse of the navy's post-war blueprint as the house appropriations committee recommended a \$24,879,510,456 navy department budget for the 1946 fiscal year starting next July 1. This was a slash of \$152,655,104 from estimates previously approved by the budget bureau.

Would Scrap 337 Units

Vice Adm. Frederic J. Horne, vice chief of naval operations, was revealed to have told the appropriations committee the navy expects to end the war with 1,528 combat ships, ranging down in size to destroyer escorts and submarines. Of these, 337 obsolescent craft would be scrapped or used as target vessels.

Of the combat ships remaining in the post-war fleet, 482 will be on active status and 709 in an inactive state. Skeleton crews would be retained on the inactive ships to maintain them and keep them in immediate readiness for See PEACE-TIME . . . Page 5

Yanks Smash Jap 'Suicide' Air Attacks

GUAM, April 17 (UP)—The Japanese air force lost 204 planes yesterday in a third unsuccessful attempt to smash the American invasion forces off Okinawa, and today a huge fleet of Superfortresses blasted six enemy aircraft staging bases on the home island of Kyushu.

Blazing aerial battles were fought between American and Japanese pilots in the skies along a 30-mile route between Okinawa and Kyushu. Navy gunners on ships ranging from gunboats to carriers of the Essex class joined in the fight, front dispatches reported.

Fleet Attack Fails
The battle lasted all day. Japanese planes trying desperately to reach the U. S. fleet were sent hurtling in flames into the sea.

A United Press dispatch from Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner's flagship said yesterday's battle offered some of the greatest hunting of the war for American fighting men. It was Japan's third try in 11 days to cripple the U. S. fleet in the Ryukyus.

In hitting Kyushu, southernmost of the enemy home islands, the B-29's sent the rapidly mounting aerial offensive against Japan into the sixth straight day.

Air Fields Blasted
The Marianas-based Superfortresses plastered a half dozen airfields in northern and southern Kyushu with demolition bombs rather than incendiaries which were heaped on Tokyo twice in the last 72 hours.

All the airfields were known to have been hit planes which have been hitting at the U. S. sea, land and air forces in the Okinawa area, some of them in suicide attacks.

Except for the invasion of Ie and the seizure of its airfield with three valuable flying strips, two of which are 5,000 feet long, ground positions of Okinawa have changed little in the past week.

2,400 Starving Nazi 'Slaves' Liberated

WITH 30th U. S. DIVISION ON THE ELBE, Germany, April 17 (UP)—More than 2,400 starving men, women and children — mostly Jews — were rescued from a prison train by the 30th division near Parsleben, 10 miles north of Magdeburg, this week.

The 30th overran a prison train of 48 boxcars in which the Germans had been transporting their slave laborers from Hannover towards southern Germany.

Sgt. Harold Jantzen, New Albany, Ind., and his squad killed or captured the Nazis manning flak guns on the train, and then opened the boxcar doors.

The prisoners poured out, hysterical in their freedom.

Junior Chamber Board Will Meet

Directors of the La Grande junior chamber of commerce will meet at 7:30 o'clock tonight in the chamber of commerce office.

County Schools Get \$38,479 State Fund

Apportionment of \$38,479 from the state school support fund to the schools of Union county was announced today at the secretary of state's office in Salem.

The sum was part of \$2,500,000 from state income taxes representing the final payment to the county educational systems for the 1944-45 school year.

New Holes Cut in Enemy Lines By Three-Way Drive

By United Press
Marshal Stalin in an order of the day announced the Red army has captured Zistersdorf, Austrian oil producing center. Zistersdorf is 29 miles northeast of Vienna.

LONDON, April 17 (UP)—Red armies perhaps 2,000,000 strong tore new holes in the eastern defenses of Berlin along a 150-mile front today and one column was reported only 17 miles from the Nazi capital.

While armored forces fought near Eberswaide, 17 miles northeast of Berlin, two more tank-supported Soviet divisions plunged through the Nazi line east of Letschin, 26 miles to the southeast and 30 miles from the capital, the Germans said.

Another German broadcast said the Soviet attack at the southern end of the new assault front had "assumed the character of a large-scale offensive" in itself, apparently aimed at linking up with the American third army 80-odd miles to the west.

Soviet paratroops dropped even closer to Berlin, but were encircled and wiped out, Nazi broadcasts said.

A Paris report said the Red army already had linked up with the Americans in the Elbe valley southeast of Dresden, but latest official dispatches placed the Soviets nearly 50 miles and the Americans 40 miles from the purported junction point.

Berlin said Premier Marshal Stalin had thrown nine infantry, five tanks and two air armies into the last great push from the east, now in its second day.

Nazi broadcasts listed penetration after penetration in the German line all the way from Schwedt, 45 miles northeast of Berlin, to Muskau, nearly 75 miles southeast, despite Adolf Hitler's order to hold fast and drown the offensive in a "sea of blood."

Japs Are Reported Producing New 'Suicide' Plane

KUNMING, China, April 17 (UP)—Reliable sources said today that the Japanese have begun large-scale production of a new type suicide plane which may prove more damaging in some respects than Germany's vaunted V-bombs.

The planes will replace the more expensive regular combat planes which Japanese suicide pilots have been loading with explosives and attempting to crash into American warships.

The new planes, now under construction in Manchuria, carry a long ton of explosives—2,240 pounds—built into their nose like a torpedo warhead.

The pilot sits in the middle of the plane, which is a pusher type with propeller in the rear. It was designed to have a cruising speed of 400 miles an hour and a diving speed of 600 miles an hour.

The planes explode when either the nose or a wing touches a solid object.

The pilots are locked into the cockpit from the outside before the takeoff and carry no parachute.

Jap Massacre of Hundreds of Civilians in Manila Revealed

WASHINGTON, April 17 (UP)—Hundreds of men, women and children were massacred by the Japanese in Manila in an incredible wave of terror during the first two weeks of February, the war department said today.

The Japanese killed their victims by shooting, bayoneting, burning, starvation, suffocation and beating, the department said.

Witnesses Tell Story

The war department released sworn first-hand accounts of American army officers and enlisted men who saw and examined hundreds of victims, sworn statements of mutilated survivors, and captured Japanese documents obtained by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters.

"This evidence proves a Japanese campaign of terror in Manila so incredible by all civilized standards that the most thorough verification and documentation were necessary," the war department said.

"Men between the ages of 15 and 60 were ordered seized and shot down," it said. "Execution parties moved from house to house with hand grenades, bayonets and torches. Hundreds were packed into dungeons to perish of starvation and suffocation."

Slay Without Mercy
"Japanese soldiers massacred without mercy at Concordia college and De LaSalle college and at the Red Cross building, where doctors and nurses and patients were indiscriminately bayoneted," the war department said.

"The evidence includes grisly exhibits of sadism. Babies were repeatedly stabbed and slashed with bayonets, even in their mothers' arms. Women and girls were violated."

Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, resident commissioner of the See JAP MASSACRE . . . Page 5

Weather

Data for 24 hours ending 7 a.m., April 17.
Temperatures:
Maximum 56
Minimum 29
Forecast: Generally clear to night, becoming unsettled Wednesday.

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