

Soviets Battle In Sight of Berlin

Reds Move to 17 Miles of Capital With Tank Charge

LONDON, April 18 (UP)—Moscow said the Russians were fighting in sight of burning Berlin today, and the nazis reported that a charge of 250 Soviet tanks opened a new breach in line through Seiversdorf, 17 miles east of the capital.

Late German broadcasts admitted that a Russian armored onslaught carried across the Alt Oder, or old course of the river, in the area southeast of Wriezen. The Russians reached Wulkow-Seiversdorf line in what Berlin called extremely violent fighting.

Meyers Resigns As Chairman of Rationing Board

J. Donald Meyers, chairman of the Union county war price and rationing board, has submitted his resignation to the Portland office of OPA, effective April 21, it was announced here today.

Meyers has served with the board for two years and one month, accepting the position of chairman soon after the resignation of C. W. Bunting of La Grande, who served as chairman from its inception for 18 months.

The resignation has been accepted, but no successor to Meyers in the post has been named. He has been asked by the Portland office to continue to oversee the operation of the office here until May 1, when Portland officials will be on hand.

Interviewed today, Meyers said:

"Press of personal business has made it necessary for me to resign at this time. I feel that the program is important to the welfare of the people and do not regret the time I have spent in attempting to do my share in making rationing operate in this county."

Marshal Ivan S. Konev's first Ukrainian army was reported to have broken into Forst, strategic base on the west bank of the Neisse river 68 miles southeast of Berlin and 62 miles northeast of Dresden.

Armored superiority enabled the Russians to smash across the Alt Oder at several points. Gains were run up in the area of Frenwalde, 25 miles northeast of Berlin, and southeast of Wriezen. The Soviets slugged ahead in bloody fighting around Neutribbin, 35 miles from the city line, and Kunersdorf Heights, 23 miles from Berlin.

Berlin also revealed that the Red army also had linked up all of its Oder river bridgeheads to form a solid 45-mile front east of Berlin and had all but isolated Frankfurt, the capital's main outer defense bastion.

To the south, the Germans said, other Russian forces stormed nine miles beyond the Neisse river, a tributary of the Oder, to the Neisky area, 45 miles north-east of Dresden and possibly 65 miles from a junction with the American third army.

Russian-Yank Drive on Berlin Is Anyone's Race

PARIS, April 18 (UP)—The next few days of operations in Germany, it appears today, will reveal whether the Americans or the Russians will take Berlin.

The swift advance of the U. S. Ninth army had given rise to belief the Americans would be the first to march down Unter den Linden. But with the opening of the Red army offensive the opinion in many quarters was that the Russians will take the reich capital.

There is considerable mystery regarding the nature and extent of the liaison between Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Russian high command.

Supreme allied headquarters has just reissued Eisenhower's statement at a press conference last February that liaison with the Russians is as good as he could wish for. At the same time a more definite statement on the subject has been given for the information only of correspondents.

It has been revealed that an operational boundary line exists, dividing the zones of American and Russian operations. But where that line has been drawn has not been made public.

Manager Named, New Elgin Bank To Open May 1

George H. Wahler, of Mehji, Minn., has been appointed cashier-manager of the Elgin State bank, the opening date of which has been definitely set for Tuesday, May 1, Jesse Crum, vice-president of the new county institution, announced today in the absence of F. B. Emery, president, who is at present in the east on a business trip.

Wahler is at present in Seattle, where he is completing personal business arrangements. He will return to Elgin next Monday to assist in making the bank ready for business.

Wahler has had considerable experience as a banker, Crum said, having spent several years with financial institutions in Minnesota.

Baseball Results

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Chicago at Cleveland, postponed, cold weather.	
Boston	2 5 0
New York	6 8 1
Wilson, Terry (3), Woods (8) and Walters; Borowy and Garbark.	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Philadelphia	8 8 1
Brooklyn	2 7 2
Barrett and Mancuso; Chapman, Lombardi (6), Nicholas (8) and Owen.	
New York	8 10 1
Boston	4 10 1
Mungo, Adams (8) and Lombardi; Andrews, Wallace (9), Cardoni (9) and Klutz; Workman (Box. 1), Gillenwater (Box. 8).	

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 18, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m., April 18:
Temperatures:
Maximum 63
Minimum 31
Precipitation .02
Forecast: Unsettled, probable showers, tonight and Thursday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

U.S. Forces Cross Czech Border

3rd Army Drives to Join Russ

WITH U. S. NINTH ARMY, Germany, April 18 (UP)—The Magdeburg branch of the reichsbank, containing \$70,000,000 in reichsmarks and silver coin, was captured today by troops of the 30th division. The vault containing the silver and currency also contained pictures and antique furniture from the Magdeburg municipal museum placed in the bank's vaults for air raid protection.

PARIS, April 18 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's American third army broke across the German border into Czechoslovakia today and pushed on to within 100 miles of Prague in a bid to cut off the last line of escape for the nazi forces fleeing southward into the Bavarian redoubt.

Tanks and armored troop carriers of Patton's 90th infantry division cracked through the German border defenses near the village of Kaiserhammes, eight miles east of Hof, and pushed three miles into the enslaved republic against stiff opposition.

United Press War Correspondent Reynolds Packard, first American reporter to enter Czechoslovakia, reported that the doughboys were fanning out southeastward on the main highways to Rossbach and Ashe, the latter only 98 miles due west of Prague.

German tanks and infantry forces fought back savagely behind road blocks and from improvised machine gun nests set up in Czech farmhouses along the border, but Packard reported that they were being driven steadily eastward.

Gottmanngruen, two miles inside Czechoslovakia and six miles See THIRD ARMY ... Page 5

Committees Are Named for Junior Chamber Projects

Committees to serve in achieving the 1945 objectives of the La Grande junior chamber of commerce were created at a meeting of the directors last night, when plans and projects for the year also were outlined.

Committees were named as follows to assist President Price Schroeder in the numerous activities of the organization; the chairman being the first named:

Membership—Tom Harper and Vern Van Vranken.
Educational—Dale Standley.
Publicity—Donald Poarch and Gordon Capps.

Program—Ron Walk and William Hamilton.
Finance—Al Long, Treasurer Mark Cunningham, Pat Fitzgerald and Leighton Johnston.

Projects—Arlo Noyes and Harold England.
Paper drive—Dennis Miller.
State awards—Ned Jones.
Civic affairs—Miller.

Veterans' projects—Orville Trump.
Entertainment—Ernie Hoffman.

Army Starts Shift To Pacific Area

WASHINGTON, April 18 (UP)—The army already has begun the job of shifting men and equipment from Europe to the Far East.

Authoritative quarters disclosed today that the original schedule for depicting U. S. military might from Europe against Japan has been advanced about four months due to the rapid crumbling of German strength.

Key service forces personnel are being sent to the Pacific to build and care for bases that will be needed when full army strength is transferred to the east.

Ernie Pyle Is Killed by Jap Machine Gun Bullets

GUAM, April 18 (UP)—Ernie Pyle, America's greatest frontline war reporter, was killed today.

He died as he has lived most of the past three years—in the front lines with the troops he wrote about and glorified. A brief message from Vice Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner, commander of amphibious forces in the Pacific, disclosed that Pyle was killed outright about 10:15 a.m. under Japanese machine gun fire on the outskirts of the town of Ie on the island of Ie, four miles west of Okinawa.

Pyle was standing with the regimental commanding officer of headquarters troops on the outskirts of the town when a Japanese machine gun opened up in surprise attack.

The famed correspondent was shot three times through the temple, Correspondent Jack Hooley broadcast from Ie Shima.

Pyle was headed for the front line fighting with Lt. Col. Joseph Coolidge of Arkansas when a sudden burst of fire sent them scrambling from their jeep into a ditch beside a narrow coral road, Hooley said.

Officer Escapes
After a few minutes they peered over the edge of the ditch and the gun rattled again. Coolidge ducked back to find Pyle dead beside him.

Coolidge finally crawled to safety and three tanks moved up to rescue Pyle's body. Steady machine gun fire pinned the men inside the tanks and finally Cpl. Alexander Roberts of New York City volunteered to go alone.

He found Pyle, his face peppered in death underneath his helmet, and the marine fatigue cap he wore "in safe places" was clutched in his hand. A chaplain and litter bearer came forward and aided in bringing the body within the American lines, Hooley said.

The last reports from Ie Shima showed that our front lines extended through the town.

Shortly before he left the Ie invasion he told a correspondent here that he didn't want to go. But he said the GI's didn't want to be there either, and that he was going along until the shooting was finished.

Admiral Nimitz privately expressed deep sadness.
Pyle had come close to death countless times before—in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France.

Before he left Europe he had a premonition of death. He wrote that he thought he had "enough." See ERNIE PYLE ... Page 3

Educator Tells Students of World Peace Programs

The forthcoming San Francisco international conference and the Dumbarton Oaks peace proposals were the subjects of a discussion this afternoon before the La Grande high school student body of Dr. George Peavy, professor emeritus of Oregon State college, making a tour under the auspices of the college extension service.

Dr. Peavy will talk tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock before the student body of the Elgin high school on the same topic.

Tomorrow, Thursday evening, he will address the meeting of the Union county farm bureau at 7:30 o'clock. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Christian church.

Dr. Peavy is making his state-wide tour in the interest of acquainting citizens with the provisions of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and outlining the importance in international affairs and to the future of every individual citizen of the rapidly approaching San Francisco conference.

Anthracite Mines Returned to Owners

WASHINGTON, April 18 (UP)—The government has returned anthracite mines of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal Co. to their owners. Orders more than seven months of government operation.

The mines, near Shenandoah, Pa., were taken over Aug. 23, 1944, on a presidential order following a coal strike.



JAP'S VICTIM—Ernie Pyle, famous correspondent, who was killed today on the Japanese island of Ie, off Okinawa, by a Jap machine gunner's bullets.



VIOLIN VIRTUOSO—Louis Kaufman, noted concert and motion picture violinist, who will appear in La Grande next Monday evening in the final concert of the Civic Music association season. He is shown with his wife, Annette, who is his accompanist.

Noted Violinist Will Be Heard In Concert Here Monday Night

Louis Kaufman, Hollywood's ambassador of music, will present the final concert of the Union county civic music association's winter season, Monday night, April 23, at the La Grande high school auditorium, association officers announced today.

The violin virtuoso will come to La Grande as part of his current tour of fifty concerts which will take him to all parts of the nation.

Accompanied by his pianist wife, Annette, Kaufman has taken a leave of absence from the motion picture studios where his violin has been heard in more than 300 pictures.

A firm believer in American music, Kaufman is the only violinist who features an all-American group by outstanding composers, including Copland, Bennett, Still and Briggs.

The violinist is a native of Oregon, born in Portland. Educated in Portland and New York, he became interested in music at the age of five, when he was in Rumania with his parents.

A young lady next door to the family in Bucharest was studying violin and began to teach him when she noted his avid interest in the instrument.

When only 13 years old, he toured the country as a prodigy and continued his studies with Franz Kneisel at the institute of musical art.

Allies Make New Advances in Italy

ROME, April 18 (UP)—Eighth army forces drove within ten miles of Bologna from the southeast today and another column, outflanked the city from the northeast.

American Fifth army units cleared the rugged peaks of Mt. Moscoo and Mt. Davigo, 12 miles southwest of the city.

British troops surrounded Argenta, 24 miles to the northeast, creating a new threat to the Bologna defenders, already facing drives from south, southeast and southwest.

Mexican Water Treaty Approved

WASHINGTON, April 18 (UP)—The senate today ratified the Mexican water treaty.

The vote was 76 to 10, well exceeding the two-thirds majority necessary for ratification.

The treaty guarantees Mexico 1,500,000 acre feet of water annually from the Colorado river and gives the United States an estimated 350,000 acre feet annually from the Rio Grande below Ft. Quitman, Tex.

Burglar Romantic, Also Mercenary

SEATTLE, April 18 (UP)—Pretty Frances Keller reported to police today that a burglar rifled her apartment of \$118 last night and that just before he left he awakened her—with a kiss, affectionate and lingering.

Fitzgerald Again Elected Head of County War Chest

Jack Fitzgerald of Elgin has been reelected chairman of the Union county war chest committee during a meeting of the group held this week, it was announced this morning.

Homer Lefel of La Grande has been named to the vice-chairmanship and the post of secretary-treasurer will be held by Treve Lamsden.

G. L. Hess of Union has been appointed to serve on the general county committee. The meeting was preliminary to organization of the drive and held for the purpose of electing officers for submission to state headquarters at Salem.

The quota for the drive, which will start in October, has not been set.

'Loyal Opposition' Calls On President

WASHINGTON, April 18 (UP)—Eight republican senators called on President Truman today to express their good wishes and offer to confer with him at any time as his "loyal opposition."

The delegation was headed by Sen. Robert A. Taft, R., O., who said the republicans offered President Truman the opportunity to deal with them directly through their senate leadership as a means of avoiding as many legislative battles between the two parties as possible.

Others in the group were Wallace H. White, Me.; Kenneth S. Wherry, Neb.; Wayne R. Austin, Vt.; Harlan J. Bunkerley, S. D.; Eugene D. Millikin, Colo.; Styles Bridges, N. H.; and C. Weyland Brooks, Ill.

Ernie Pyle

Being Mistaken For Admiral Provides Laugh

By ERNIE PYLE
(Editor's note:—With the death of Ernie Pyle today in the Pacific war zone, this probably is one of the last columns he will write on his experiences with the American forces.)

OKINAWA (By Navy Radio)—After a couple of days with the headquarters of the marine regiment I moved to a company and lived and marched with them for several days. The company is a part of the first marine division.

At first I introduced myself to the company commander and he took me on a half hour's walking trip around the company area before turning me loose with the men.

They had turned in for the night and put out perimeter defenses so no infiltrating Japs could get through and any big attack could be dealt with.

The company was on a hill about 3000 yards long and about 100 yards wide. The men were dug in down the sides of the hill. There was a mortar platoon at the foot of the hill, all set up to throw mortars any direction.

Our part of the island had not yet been declared "secured," and we had even received warning of possible attacks from sea that night. So nobody was taking any chances.

"This is the most perfect defensive position we've ever had in our lives," the company commander said.
See PYLE ... Page 6

Boy Is Seriously Injured as Car, Truck Collide

James Sams, 18, of La Grande, incurred severe scalp and facial injuries yesterday afternoon when an automobile in which he was riding with Ernest Simonis, 17, of Rt. 1, La Grande, collided with a tank truck at Jefferson and Fir streets.

The youth was given first aid treatment by Dr. A. L. Richardson and sent to the Grande Ronde hospital for surgical attention. Dr. Richardson said Sams' injuries are serious but not critical.

Thirty stitches were required to suture a long scalp wound which severed the temporal artery, and an injured eyelid.

Reports of the drivers to the city police said the vehicles approached the intersection at right angles to one another and neither saw the other vehicle in time to avert the collision. The passenger vehicle was badly damaged but no damage was reported by the truck driver, Raymond W. Pruett, 27, of Baker.

In another accident yesterday afternoon cars driven by Pvt. John Eldridge, 22, and V. M. Carlson were involved in a minor accident at Depot and Washington streets.

Farm Labor Office Will Open Monday

The Union county farm labor office will open Monday, April 23, at a new location, that formerly occupied by the Draper School of Commerce on Jefferson street.

The office, under the supervision of R. W. Schaudt, county agent, will be made up of additional labor during the crop season. Mrs. Lois Ferguson will be in charge of the office and a field man will be engaged soon to contact farmers and survey their needs.

Until Monday application for workers may be made at the county agent's office.

The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily except Saturday when the office will close at noon, except during the critical labor periods.