

# Leipzig, Halle Captured by Yanks

## Gap Between U.S., Russ Armies Shrinks; Nuernberg Fall Near

PARIS, April 19 (UP)—The central anchors of the German front—Leipzig and Halle—fell today to American attack and Nuernberg, gateway to the Nazi "national redoubt" in Bavaria, was cleared of German resistance except for a few areas.

Loss of Leipzig and Halle virtually collapsed the waist of the dwindling Nazi north and south corridor and was expected to leave the way open for a juncture with the Red army in the Dresden area. Russian forces were about 30 miles west of Dresden. The first army at Leipzig is about 60 miles west of Dresden while the third army in the Chemnitz area is only 38 miles southwest of Dresden.

To the south the U. S. seventh army, battling to break into the German "national redoubt", cleared what was officially described as "the greater part" of Nuernberg.

The Nazi shrine city was surrounded and the seventh collected a large bag of prisoners, including three generals. The generals were Gottard von Witzendorf, commander of an anti-aircraft division and chief of anti-aircraft units in Bavaria and Paul Mahlmann and Otto Matterstock, both found wounded in a hospital.

The U. S. third army probed forward deeper into Czechoslovakia but made only limited gains.

**Duesseldorf Captured**  
The great Ruhr pocket was declared officially mopped up today with a prisoners' bag of 316,930 with some yet to be counted.

The cleanup of the Ruhr pocket put into allied hands the great industrial city of Duesseldorf. It was the last of the big cities in the Ruhr to be captured. The ninth army encountered a See GERMAN... Page 7

## Populace of Leipzig Glad To See Yanks

WITH AMERICAN TROOPS IN LEIPZIG, April 19 (UP)—The war ended for Leipzig today and the million or more German civilians jammed into this historic city seemed glad of it.

Tens of thousands of civilians turned out as if for a parade to watch the American First army's triumphal entry. Many waved and shouted greetings to the doughboys who had taken on and beaten the toughest of Hitler's supermen.

**Liberated Prisoners Cheer**  
Mingled with the street crowds were hundreds of liberated American, British, Polish and Russian "prisoners who yelled, cheered and wept with joy at being liberated.

"It was like Paris, but the difference is they haven't any flowers or fruit here to throw at us," said Pfc. Fred Olberg, jr., Chicago, Ill.

For the tired foot soldiers who fought through the Leipzig flak barrage and then rooted out the Nazi garrison street by street there was little thrill in the fall of this once-great city center.

**Hitler Delays Surrender**  
Capt. Edward L. Farrell, jr., Boston, Mass., said the Leipzig officials tried to surrender the city yesterday but were halted by orders from Berlin to hold on at all costs.

But the defense thrown up by the garrison in the final hours was little more than token. Only the toughest Nazi fanatics tried to hold out. Others gave up without a fight.

But even before the battle ended, German civilians had closed up their shops and offices and swarmed out into the streets to see the American conquerors.

They didn't show any animosity. Most of them were openly glad the war was over for them.

Some residents stood on street corners with the liberated allied prisoners and tried to beg food from the passing troops.

Pfc. James Maze, Richmond, Ind., watched one group of Germans cheering the American columns and he stroked a cluster of hand grenades tied about his neck.

"Funny thing," he said, "we fought like hell to get in here and now we find the people glad to see us."

**Switzerland Closes German Frontier**  
ZURICH, April 19 (UP)—The Swiss federal council at Berne has decided to close completely the northern and eastern frontier. This was disclosed today.

This would bar entrance of refugees into Switzerland except by way of France and northwestern Italy.

## Rev. M. A. Talney Named Moderator of Church Session

Rev. Mark A. Talney, La Grande, last night was elected to serve as moderator of the eighth annual Eastern Oregon Presbytery, which is meeting today and tomorrow in the First Presbyterian church, with the Presbyterian and the Youth Presbytery.

The Rev. Charles R. Ebel, Tuftulla, presented the worship service at this morning's meeting of the Presbytery, using the theme of his address, and emphasizing that our nation, rating at the top as a world power, will have more responsibilities than any other nation, and that we must be prepared to meet that challenge when the war ends.

Mrs. Bernard Montgomery, vice-president of the Oregon synodical society, spoke on stewardship, the highlight of her address being that those who have plenty must share with others who have little or none.

At the evening of the Presbytery held this morning, business matters were discussed and reports were presented by various committees. Miscellaneous business was scheduled during the afternoon.

At 6 o'clock this evening a dinner will be served to the entire group by women of the local Presbyterian church.

The conference will continue through this evening and Friday morning.

**Lawyers Return from Court of Appeals**  
Attorneys Henry Hess and S. H. Burleigh have returned from Portland where they represented Carl Locken in his suit against the Corneopia Gold Mines, Inc., which the defendants have taken to the circuit court of appeals.

In the lower court, Locken was granted a judgment of \$7,500 against the mining company, following the electrocution of his wife, Mrs. Carl Locken, at the Corneopia mines near Baker.

## Meat Shortage Probers Find Roasts and Steaks are Scarce

WASHINGTON, April 19 (UP)—Senators who have been investigating the nation's meat shortage for more than a month finally discovered today that there is a pretty alarming scarcity of roasts, steaks and even outfalls right here in the capital.

Every last one of Washington's slaughterhouses has closed up. Couldn't get meat.

A local packer has given this employee a two weeks' vacation. Can't get meat.

P. P. Casey, Washington's largest independent meat dealer, has closed up after 37 years in business. Can't get meat, either.

What's more, Mrs. Elmer Thomas hasn't been able to get any for weeks and weeks. Mrs. Thomas' husband, a democratic senator from Oklahoma, is head of the senate's food investigating committee.

The senators are taking today off. But Thomas has asked representatives of the closed-down slaughterhouses, the vacationing packing plant and the out-of-business meat dealer to come over tomorrow and tell just what happened.

Thomas said he believes the situation might lead to the "black market."

Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, D., Mont., is going to Pittsburgh Sunday night or Monday to put in some groundwork for a black-market expose the senators hope to pull off there Tuesday.



**SQUEEZE ON BERLIN TIGHTENS**—As American and Russian forces drove closer to Berlin today, the German high command said the battle between the Rhine and Ruhr has ended. The Russian army has captured outposts to the Nazi capital and was reported to be only 14 miles away. Americans took Leipzig. Advances continued on other sectors indicated in the map.

## Churchill Predicts Early Nazi Government Collapse

LONDON, April 19 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill indicated belief today that the authority of the German government may disintegrate within a few days.

Churchill told the house of commons a three-power warning to Germany on war atrocities, signed by himself, Marshal Stalin and President Truman will be issued within a few days.

The warning will be addressed, he said, to the "German government or whatever authority exists" at that time—indicating belief that the crumbling Nazi regime may not be functioning as an entity by the time the joint statement is dispatched.

At the same time Churchill declared speculation on the date of V-day which he said will be fixed in consultation with the "three of four" principal powers, having a mind to both military and political considerations. He implied that no agreement on a date has yet been reached.

He revealed that a special parliamentary delegation will leave Britain tomorrow to obtain eyewitness evidence of Nazi atrocities.

Churchill said the atrocity warning will be addressed not only to the men at the top but to the actual persons perpetrating the crimes and that it will make clear that no orders from superior authorities will be any protection from punishment for their crimes.

**Japan Feels Pinch Of Plane Materials**  
TOKYO, April 19 (UP)—Tokyo radio indicated today that Japan is feeling the shortage of materials for warplanes. A broadcast said that even wooden planes would be built if necessary to keep the Kamikaze suicide corps in action.

Karoso Hatta, director of the Mitsubishi heavy industries and executive for the "deadly one-way air armament" of the Japanese air force, was quoted as saying that the assembly lines were working "full blast" to keep the Kamikaze pilots busy for some time to come.

**Huge Meat Supply Stored in Lockers**  
CHICAGO, April 19 (UP)—Louis R. Uhrig, president of National Frozen Food Locker association, said today that approximately one week's meat supply for the nation is stored in locker plants.

Uhrig said that 2,000,000 individual lockers in the country now hold approximately 200,000,000 pounds of meat. This is about four per cent of the nation's annual supply.

He said more than 80 per cent of the patrons of the nation's 6,000 locker plants are farmers. Approximately 75 per cent of the customers live in communities with less than 5,000 population, he maintained.

**NOTED DOCTOR DIES**  
PORTLAND, Ore., April 19 (UP)—Dr. Charles J. Smith, 70, one of Oregon's best known physicians, former state senator and former mayor of Pendleton, died at his home here early today.

Death was attributed to heart attack. Dr. Smith had been in Oregon 54 years.

The La Grande city commission last night sold lots 9 and 10 in block 2, Riverside addition to Gerald L. and Alice Waite for \$100, and set \$175.00 the price on lots 6, 7 and 8, block 4 in Ryne-spoon's addition.

General receipts were \$49,500, and general disbursements, \$1,064.30. Water receipts were \$21,325 and water disbursements amounted to \$269.19.

# La Grande Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Willowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1945

FIVE CENTS

## Reds Hit Berlin Outskirts

### Kyushu Raids Continued By Superforts

Superfortresses raided Kyushu for the third straight day today, Tokyo said, and American ground forces scored new gains in Okinawa and Ie in the Ryukyus and on newly-invaded Mindanao in the Philippines.

Enemy broadcasts said more than 100 B-29's bombed Kyushu, southernmost of Japan's home islands, while three other B-29's and 60 escorting Mustang fighters attacked airfields in the Tokyo area.

With Tokyo one-tenth destroyed, foreign diplomats have evacuated the capital, the broadcasts admitted.

The Kyushu raids presumably were aimed at the six airfields from which Japanese suicide pilots have been taking off to attack the American fleet off Okinawa, 330 miles south. Tokyo said the raid lasted two hours.

**Raid Tokyo Airfields**  
Another broadcast said the American raiders bombed and strafed Tokyo airfields for half an hour.

Marines cleared three-fourths of Okinawa with a drive to the northern tip of the island. Other marines still were embattled on Motobu peninsula jutting from the northwest coast and army troops at the south end. See NEW GAINS... Page 7

### La Grande Nurse In Army Service

Betty Jane Grice of La Grande has received orders to active duty with the army nurse corps and will report to Madigan general hospital in Tacoma, Wash., soon for basic training.

The Ninth service command headquarters, Fort Douglas, Utah, announced she was recently commissioned a second lieutenant in the ANC, will be assigned to Hammond general hospital, Modesto, Calif., upon completion of training.

Miss Grice has been serving as health nurse at Eastern Oregon college.

### Car is Wrecked After Wild Run

L. A. Collins, general superintendent of the Union Pacific railroad in Portland, announced here late yesterday that investigation of a wreck on the line at 7 a. m. Saturday showed it was due to a car getting out of control while being set out of a train at Kamela.

He said the car ran wild down grade for about five miles before momentum caused it to leave the rails. He said no damage was done to tracks or equipment except the car involved.

### Pyle Will Be Buried on Okinawa Beside Men of Whom He Wrote

OKINAWA, April 19 (UP)—Ernie Pyle will be buried among the soldiers he immortalized.

The beloved little war correspondent killed by a Japanese machine-gunner yesterday probably will be laid to rest in an army cemetery here in the Ryukyus where he covered his last campaign.

The soldiers he loved brought him back from the battlefield, back to where the noise of the guns is distant and dull. They lifted his pint-sized frame from the ditch where he fell, victim of a Japanese machine-gun ambush.

One of his hands still clutched his green fatigue cap. They put him on a litter, and crossed his arms, and then carried him back to the war.

It wasn't easy. The Japanese machine-gunner seemed jealous of his prized victim. It was five hours after Ernie was killed before anybody could get to his body.

Corp. Alex. G. Roberts, army photographer from New York

Ernie always said he would get See OKINAWA... Page 7

### Mother With Most Children in Armed Forces Is Sought

SALEM, Ore., April 19 (UP)—The "American war mother" will be sought again this year—the woman who has the largest number of children in the armed services.

Gov. Earl Snell today announced Douglas Mullarky, private secretary to the governor, will have charge of the search for the "Oregon war mother." Nominations must be in Mullarky's hands by May 7.

The winner last year was Mrs. Ella Garner, Oregon City, mother of eight service children. Mrs. Joe Thomas, La Grande, also had eight in service last year, but her nomination was received too late to be considered.

### President Truman Opposes Curb on Selective Service

WASHINGTON, April 29 (UP)—Senate Democratic Leader Alben W. Barkley, Ky., said today that President Truman wants the selective service act extended without amendments.

The president's attitude apparently would apply, Barkley indicated, to a pending amendment by Sen. Tom Stewart, D., Tenn., which would require at least six months pre-combat training for all inductees under 18.

Speaking in the senate, Stewart said that the country has reached that point in the war when we do not have to use these 18-year-olds without sufficient training.

Stewart said that "because of their tender years," 18-year-olds should be given as much seasoning as possible.

Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, D., Mont., said he had received letters concerning youngsters sent into combat service "with two weeks training—some with none. It's a cruel, harsh thing."

Sen. W. Lee O'Daniel, D., Tex., asked congress today to stipulate that any boy under 20 drafted into the armed forces should have at least a year's training before being sent into combat.

O'Daniel introduced an amendment to the selective service act which would ban combat duty beyond the continental boundaries of the United States for all inductees under 20 until after they had had 12 months training.

### Action Delayed in Old Murder Probe

OAKLAND, Cal., April 19 (UP)—District Attorney Ralph E. Hoyt today was awaiting a report from two Alameda county officials in Portland, Ore., before taking further steps in the case of William A. Wellesley, 41, ex-convict held there for questioning in the suitcase murder of Austin C. Barber.

Wellesley, a friend of Barber's who admitted being with the former oil company employe at the time of his disappearance, in 1943, denied any knowledge of the crime. Barber's torso was found in Niles canyon, near Oakland, and his head and hands in a suitcase near Fort Bragg, Cal.

### Huge Fund for Navy Approved

WASHINGTON, April 19 (UP)—The house passed and sent to the senate today a bill to give the navy \$24,879,510,546 to finance its knockout blow against Japan.

The bill—for naval expenses and operations during the fiscal year beginning July 1—includes \$23,400,502,133 in new cash, \$1,399,008,413 in contract and authorizations and \$80,000,000 in re-appropriations.

The total is \$6,903,560,155 less than was approved in the current year.

Navy officers told the appropriations committee that the bulk of the funds are for the war against Japan.

### Baseball Results

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
First game:  
New York 000 000 040—4 8 1  
Boston 001 000 011—3 7 0  
Hansen, Brewer (3), Gee (3) and Lombardi; Barrett and Masi.

St. Louis 000 530 000—8 12 0  
Chicago 010 001 000—2 7 2  
Breechen and Cooper; Prim, Stewart (5), Camellas (6) and Livingston. HHR—Sauer (Chl. 2), Hennesey (8).

Philadelphia 000 001 000—1 2 0  
Brooklyn 003 000 00x—3 5 1  
Sprout, Chetkovich (4) and Mancuso; Gregg and Sukerforth.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
Boston 010 000 101—3 7 2  
New York 000 002 011—4 10 0  
Draisewerd, Ryba (7) and Holm, Walters (7); Dubiel and Garbark.

### Vanguard 9 Miles From City

LONDON, April 19 (UP)—Nazi broadcasts said today that Russian forces had scored a deep advance east of Berlin and thrust an armored spearhead across a road running northeast of Strausberg, a town nine miles from the city limits of the capital.

A German military spokesman said Marshall Ivan S. Konev's first Ukrainian army had pushed westward to 25 miles beyond the Neisse river and had reached the Spree river on a 42-mile front between Cottbus and Bautzen, 68 miles from the American third army at Chemnitz.

Moscow continued to give only vague hints of the great Soviet offensive on the broad front before Berlin—drives in which gloomy Nazi commentators acknowledged steady Russian gains into the shrinking waistline of the unoccupied Reich.

By German account the bloodiest fighting raged in the maze of defenses strung over the near approaches to Berlin.

**Outposts Are Taken**  
Red army assault forces toppled the Berlin outposts of See-elow and Wriezen, 26 miles east and 23 northeast of the capital, the Germans admitted.

After the fall of Wriezen, one broadcast said, the Russians moved "several kilometers" down the road to Strausberg. A later alarmed radio report said that after achieving a deep breakin, a spearhead "thrust a few kilometers" beyond the road into Strausberg.

The Germans viewed the Neisse-Sprea offensive 50 to 90 miles southeast of Berlin as a preliminary to a Red army effort to encircle the capital from the south and link up with the Americans in the area of Dresden, only 30 miles southwest of the Russian vanguard at Bautzen.

Another new Russian offensive was under way west of the Austrian junction town of St. Pölten, on the south bank of the Danube 128 miles east of Adolf Hitler's mountain fortress at Berchtesgaden, enemy broadcasts said.

### Carroll Will Be Prisoner of War—Unless He Resists

WASHINGTON, April 19 (UP)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said today that if and when American troops find Adolf Hitler they will bring him as a prisoner of war—unless he resists.

Stimson was asked at his press conference whether American soldiers had been indoctrined on what to do if they found Hitler.

He said in reply that he wondered if the question did full justice to American troops.

"You may be sure our troops will do their duty," he said. "Hitler will be made prisoner of war, like other Nazi officials, if he doesn't resist."

### Ernie Pyle

**First Night On Okinawa Spent In Foxhole**  
By ERNIE PYLE  
OKINAWA (By navy radio)—The company commander, Capt. Julian Dusenbury, said I could have my choice of two places to spend the first night with his company.

One was with him in his command post. The command post was a big, round Japanese gun emplacement, made of sandbags. The Japs had never occupied it, but they had stuck a log out of it, pointing toward the sea and making it look like a gun to aerial reconnaissance.

Captain Dusenbury and a couple of his officers had spread ponchos on the ground inside the emplacement and had hung their telephone on a nearby tree and were ready for business. There was no roof on the emplacement. It was right on top of a hill and cold and very windy.

My other choice was with a couple of enlisted men who had room for me in a little gypsy-like hideout they'd made.

It was a tiny, level place about halfway down the hillside, away from the sea. I'd made a roof for it by tying ponchos to trees and had dug up some Japanese straw mats out of a farmhouse to lay on the ground.

I chose the second of these two places, partly because it was warmer, and also because I wanted to be with the men anyhow.

My two "roommates" were Corp. Martin Clayton, jr., of Dallas, Tex., and Pfc. William Gross of Lansing, Mich.

Clayton is nicknamed "Bird Dog" and nobody ever calls him anything else. He is tall, thin and dark, almost Latin-looking. He sports a puny little mustache he's been trying to grow for weeks and he makes fun of it.

Gross is simply called Gross. See PYLE... Page 2

**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m., April 19:  
Temperature:  
Maximum 67  
Minimum 37  
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Friday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

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### President Names Braden as U.S. Envoy to Argentina

WASHINGTON, April 19 (UP)—President Truman today nominated Spruille Braden, ambassador to Cuba since 1941, to be the new U. S. ambassador to Argentina.

This, the first diplomatic nomination by the new chief executive, marked full-fledged resumption of diplomatic relations with the Argentine republic.

The last U. S. ambassador to Argentina was Norman Armour, who was recalled last year. Armour was recalled when this and the other American republics suspended relations with the Argentine because of its refusal for a long time to break cleanly with the axis and cooperate fully in the United Nations war effort.

Argentina's diplomatic quarantine was lifted after the recent Pan-American conference in Mexico at which a formula was adopted for the holdout country's return to the fold.

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