

# REDS REACH BERLIN

**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.  
April 21:  
Temperature:  
Maximum 78  
Minimum 42  
Forecast Partly cloudy tonight and Sunday.

## La Grande Evening Observer

OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Willamette Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 21, 1945 FIVE CENTS

# Yanks Close in On Hitler Retreat

## New Push Launched Over Elbe

PARIS, April 21 (UP)—American troops were reported storming the Elbe river line at a new point northwest of Berlin today in a major bid to break through and join the Red army in the final assault on the German capital.

Word of the new crossing attempt on the U. S. ninth army front before Berlin was flashed by the German DNB news agency as three other allied armies in the south struck along a 200-mile front for Hitler's last retreat in the Brunswick area.

In the Brunswick area, SS infantry riding armored vehicles thrust deep into the positions of the U. S. Ninth army. Several

WITH U. S. NINTH ARMY, Germany, April 21 (UP)—The U. S. Ninth army has been put on the alert for a junction with Russian spearheads near the Elbe river, it was revealed tonight.

groups containing several hundred men each were engaged in the stabs. The largest was in the area of Koenigsliuter, 10 miles southeast of Brunswick.

Front dispatches said many of the Germans were being mopped up. An 84th division counter-blow hurled back the main Nazi thrust after infiltrating units advanced halfway across the corridor toward the remnants of German forces pocketed in the Harz-wald area.

DNB said the Americans at See AMERICANS... Page 7

## School Musicians Meet in Eastern Oregon Festival

Ratings were given today in the Eastern Oregon high school music festival, being held at the local college, for string solos, string ensembles, brass solos, drum solos, woodwind solos and instrumental ensembles. The competition continued during the afternoon.

Both regional and section ratings are given at the event, the regional being higher than the sectional, starting at 1 and going through 5, with 1 the highest.

Ratings for the various events follow: String solos, violin, senior division—Mary Kirby, St. Francis academy, Baker, 2; William Gogger, St. Joseph's academy, Pendleton, 2; Jacqueline Smith, St. Francis, 1; Irvin Wright, La Grande, 3; Iris Roy, St. Joseph, 1; Beverly Smith, La Grande, 2; Geraldine McGinnis, St. Francis, 2.

Violin, junior division—Patricia Michel, La Grande, 2; Donna Gordon, La Grande, 2; Donald Schorn, St. Joseph, 2; Doris Jean Gray, La Grande, 1; Jack Evans, La Grande, 1; viola—Beverly See SCHOOL... Page 7

## Baseball Results

**American League**  
New York 001 000 009—1 1 1  
Washington 200 000 004—2 1 1  
Boston and Cleveland: Wolf and Ferrell  
St. Louis at Chicago, postponed.  
Philadelphia 003 014 400—3 2 2  
Boston 019 000 014—2 10 2  
New York and Holy: Hausman and Woods (7), Wilson (8) and Wolf.  
Cleveland 001 000 010 (6)—2 5 1  
Detroit 001 000 100 01—3 2 2  
Embrace and Rust: Waki, Nowbauer and Richards.  
**National League**  
Boston 100 200 100—4 1 1  
Chicago 100 000 000—3 13 3  
Pittsburgh 201 000 000—3 13 3  
Birmingham and Livingston, Ross and Salkeld.



**PRESIDENT BUYS FIRST POPPY**—Standing on the president's desk, little Margaret Ann Forde, 5, pins the first Buddy Poppy of the 1945 Buddy Poppy sale on President Truman's lapel. Margaret is daughter of a disabled ex-service man and made the trip to Washington from the Veterans of Foreign Wars national home for widows and orphans of ex-service men in Eaton Rapids, Mich., where she and her sister and two brothers are now living.

## Churchill Hints He May Retire After V-E Day

BRISTOL, Eng., April 21 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill hinted today that he might retire—after the defeat of Germany.

In a speech accepting the freedom of this city, he said that he "for whoever stands in my place" will have to ask war-weary Britons "for a new leap forward, for a new lifting of the soul and body" to defeat Japan.

Churchill said that in the event there was a new prime minister he would support him, whoever it may be, but did not elaborate further. However, a general election will be held after V-E day.

"We have the Japanese to finish," Churchill said, "and we have to stand absolutely with our great American ally in paying off at the other end of the world debts as heavy as ever were inflicted on us."

He called on Britain to help prosecute "this second war" to a conclusion free from any doubt.

Churchill again dampened talk of a premature V-E day.

"We have no intention of encouraging any festivities or thanksgiving until we are assured from our military commanders that the task is so far complete that everyone may cheer," he said.

The reference was taken as an indication that victory would be proclaimed only after all pockets of German resistance have been erased.

## Kyushu Is Pounded By B-29s

By United Press  
More than 300 Superfortresses bombed Kyushu again today and American ground forces completed conquest of the central Philippines and battered out new gains in the bloody battle for southern Okinawa.

The B-29's, hitting Kyushu for the third time in five days, blasted nine bases for the Japanese suicide planes which were blamed for sinking some of the 15 American war vessels lost off Okinawa and Japan during the last month.

**Naval Losses Revealed**  
A Pacific fleet communique listed for the first time the naval losses between March 18 and April 18. Included were five destroyers—Halligan, Bush, Colhoun, N. L. Abele and Pringle; two mine craft—Emmons and Skylark; the destroyer transport Dickerson; five smaller warships; and two ammunition ships—Hobbs Victory and Logan Victory.

During the same period the Americans destroyed at least 100 Japanese vessels, including a Yamato class battleship.

**Advance on Okinawa**  
On Okinawa, three American divisions drove deeper into the enemy's last ditch defense line less than three and a half miles north of Naha, the capital. Advances up to a mile were reported all along the four mile line across the southern end of the island.

Other troops on nearby Ie island continued their drive. Through Wednesday 736 Japanese had been killed on the island. See KYUSHU... Page 7

## Former La Grande Man Is Killed In Plane Accident

Friends in La Grande have been advised of the death in France of Oliver E. Tudor, a former resident of La Grande, and a flight officer in the ferrying division of the army air transport command.

He had landed on the army field and was taxiing his plane along the landing strip when the propeller flew off and sheared through the cabin, killing the pilot instantly. The accident occurred last December 5.

Tudor was best known as a guitar player, and after leaving La Grande he was employed in the movies in Hollywood, appearing with Gene Autry. He also was an intimate of Smiley Burnette, with whom he made numerous personal appearance tours prior to entering the army.

His widow and three children live in North Hollywood.

Tudor, who was familiarly known as Montie, attended Greenwood school here, and left about 10 years ago to go to California.

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**PARIS, April 21 (UP)**—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has issued orders that every victim of Nazi torture and starvation in overrun camps be given a decent burial—by German civilians.

Eisenhower's chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, revealed the move today by the supreme commander.

Burial parties are recruited from the civilian population of the nearest towns, given shovels, and made to bury the bodies properly. The workers must take their own shovels if they expect to eat during the task.

man stumbled and fell, he would get the bayonet and be clubbed with rifle butts.

"German civilians stood along the road and laughed at us. The marines had police dogs which would rush in on the fallen

## Leslie F. Smith Elected Head of Scout Committee

Leslie F. Smith, a member of the high school faculty, was elected chairman of the Mt. Emily district council of Boy Scouts at a meeting of the district committee last night in the Presbyterian church. He succeeds Rev. A. J. Stanley, who resigned.

Claire Cahill, field executive, urged that the various troops cooperate more fully by providing their membership quotas on the district committee.

After a discussion of the commissioner staff and extension committee, it was announced that Smith will appoint neighborhood commissioners and committeemen in the near future.

Lee Reynolds explained a new advancement award which will be inaugurated at the court of honor to be held April 30 in Baker.

A discussion of the waste paper drive next Wednesday brought out the information that there will be no house to house collection on that date, and that the various scout groups will have to gather their paper and turn it in to a central depot before pick-up day.

The summer camp at Wallawa and Anthony lakes was discussed and it was the sense of the meeting that every troop leader, parent and employer be urged to give boys every chance to take advantage of the camping activities.

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**NAZIS' LAST BASTIONS FALLING**—As great American and Russian armies drive across Germany, overrunning all resistance and at the gates of the capital itself, they also are moving ever closer to a junction to the south, where they are driving at the Bavaria Alps to prevent a marshalling of the disrupted enemy forces for a last stand. The map shows the relative positions of the various allied units yesterday.

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## Allies Control Half of Hitler's 'Greater Germany'

By United Press  
Allied armies have occupied one-half of the 225,256 square miles of Adolf Hitler's "greater Germany."

The advances by Soviet troops converging onto Berlin brought the total area under allied control to the half-way mark—112,630 square miles.

"Greater Germany" includes the 182,471-square-mile reich and 24,064-square-mile Austria and 8,721 square miles of the Czechoslovak Sudetenland.

## Health Nurse Is Named at College

The appointment of Mrs. Bruce Morehead as health nurse at Eastern Oregon college was announced today by President Robert J. Maaske. She replaces Miss Betty Jane Grice who has been commissioned second lieutenant in the army nurse corps.

Mrs. Morehead, who took up her duties at the school yesterday, is well known locally. She is a registered nurse, having earned her rating at St. Luke's school of nursing in Boise.

## JAP SPY IS HANGED

MANILA, April 21 (UP)—Japanese sergeant-major Sakai Naritaka was convicted by a military commission of spying in civilian clothes and hanged Thursday, it was announced today.

A processing center for allied fliers shot down over German territory was discovered in the nearby town of Buchenbuhl. A master index file detailing what happened to 45,000 Anglo-American airmen was found in the center.

Each captured flier was recorded in the master file and listed on a separate card. He was given a number and his belongings were placed in an envelope with the number.

Bushels of rings, watches, fraternity pins, and dogtags were found at the processing center.

# Fighting Rages in Streets on Rim of German Capital

LONDON, April 21 (UP)—The Red army announced tonight that it had captured half a dozen of the key strongpoints in front of Berlin and was fighting in the streets on the rim of the reich capital.

A Soviet communique said Russian forces besieging Berlin had seized Erkner, half a mile from the southeastern edge of the city proper, together with fortified towns scattered over an arc pressed close against the city and reaching to Bernau, three miles from the northeastern side of the capital.

The German high command had earlier acknowledged today that Russian siege armies were storming Berlin and that a Red army lightning thrust of more than 50 miles had outflanked the doomed capital completely on the south.

Nazi broadcasts said converging Soviet armies had clamped a blazing siege arc against the eastern, southeastern and northeastern suburbs of Berlin, and that Red army artillery had begun pumping shells into the heart of the city.

A German communique reported that a Soviet column had raced up the Spree valley, by-passed Berlin on the south, and reached the area of Juterbog, 26 miles southwest of the city and 40 miles from the U. S. ninth army's bridgehead across the Elbe.

Supplementary broadcasts reported Russian forces ranging the region southwest of Berlin in the areas of Truenbrietzen, 23 miles from the capital, and south of Beelitz, 13 miles southwest of Berlin.

The speed with which the Red army mobile units raced beyond Berlin indicated that the nazis had mustered every last ounce of their strength for the defense of the capital itself and on the Elbe line to the west, leaving the city's back door unbolts.

**Early Breakthrough Seen**  
A Moscow dispatch said the final breakthrough on the Berlin front was expected this weekend.

Thousands of Soviet guns and planes were pouring steel and explosives into the devastated city in a steady rain. RAF Mosquitoes joined in the bombardment with six separate block-buster raids during the night.

The muffled thunder of the bombardment was audible to American ninth army troops along the Elbe river, 45 miles west of Berlin, a front dispatch from that area said.

(A BBC broadcast said that American and Russian patrols were only 25 miles apart in an unidentified sector of Germany. The report was attributed to "messages reaching Moscow.") A United Press dispatch from Moscow said patrols already may HEART... Page 7

## President Truman Will Welcome S. F. Parley Delegates

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21 (UP)—The United Nations conference on international organization will convene in its first plenary session Wednesday afternoon to hear a broadcast welcoming speech by President Harry S. Truman from the White House, it was announced today.

Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Governor Earl Warren of California and Roger D. Lapham, mayor of San Francisco, will speak on the same program.

Michael McDermott, state department press director, outlined probable conference parliamentary procedure for the opening week beginning April 25, as delegates and their secretarial delegations at headquarters in rapidly-increasing numbers.

**Smuts Expects Results**  
Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts, 75, prime minister of the Union of South Africa, and one of the free world's great statesmen, arrived aboard an R. A. F. liberator from New York. He was optimistic about the conference, and the prospects for post-war peace.

"This time I believe we will pull it off," Smuts said.

## Port of Bordeaux Reopens to Allies

PARIS, April 21 (UP)—The port of Bordeaux was reopened for allied shipping today for the first time in four years following the clearing of German forces from the entire Gironde estuary.

The campaign to eliminate the German pocket around the Gironde virtually ended yesterday when the German commandant, Colonel Klein, and his entire staff were captured, the communication added, and only a few "nomadic" troops remaining to be mopped up.

## Enterprise Soldier Wounded in Action

Army casualty lists today include the name of Pfc. Louis E. Simmons of Enterprise among the soldiers wounded in action in the European theater of operations.

Next of kin, who was notified prior to the public announcement, is listed as his father, Daniel E. Simmons of Enterprise.

### Ernie Pyle

On the March With Marines Writer Finds Laughs

(Editor's note: Ernie Pyle wrote his daily columns several days ahead of publication date as a means of preventing unbroken continuity in the event of temporary delays in transmission. The following is one of those he wrote but a few days before he met death at the hands of a Jap machine gunner. Others will follow for several days.)

By ERNIE PYLE  
OKINAWA—(By Navy Radio)—My company of marines started moving just after breakfast. We were to march about a mile and a half, then dig in and stay in one place for several days, patrolling and routing out the few hidden Japs in that area.

We were in no danger on the march—at least we thought we weren't, so not all the marines wore steel helmets. Some wore green twill caps, some baseball caps, some even wore civilian felt hats they had found in Japanese homes.

For some reason soldiers the world over like to put on odd local headgear. I've seen soldiers in Italy wearing black silk opera hats. And over here I've seen marines in combat uniform wearing Panama hats.

I've always enjoyed going along with an infantry company on the move, even some of the horrible moves such as we had in Italy and France. But the move we made that morning here on Okinawa was really a pleasant one.

It was early morning and the air was good. The temperature was perfect. The country was pretty. We all felt that sense of ease when you know nothing very bad is ahead of you. There is no weight on your spirit. Some of the boys were even smoking cigars.

There are always funny sights in a column of soldiers moving along. Our mortar platoon had commandeered a dozen local See MARINES... Page 8

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