

Reds, U. S. Forces Near Juncture

Inner Defenses of Berlin Penetrated By Russian Armies

LONDON, April 23 (UP)—Marshall Stalin announced tonight that two great Russian armies were driving deep into Berlin from the east and south. Other Soviet forces have reached the Elbe northwest of Dresden, he said, and apparently a juncture with American troops is imminent. Stalin, in two orders of the day, revealed that Marshall Gregory K. Zhukov's army had shattered Berlin's eastern defenses and plunged within four miles of the heart of the city, and that Marshal Ivan S. Konev's forces had swept up from the south and broken into the German capital. There was no immediate clarification of the distance between the Russians and Americans after the Red army push to the Elbe. But earlier field dispatches had indicated that a juncture of the allied forces overrunning Germany from the east and west might be expected when the Soviets reached the river.

Elgin High School Is Destroyed by Saturday Fire

Fire of undetermined origin Saturday night destroyed the Elgin high school. The building and equipment were a total loss. When the flames were discovered about 8 o'clock, the fire had gained considerable headway and the Elgin department, finding the fire out of control, called for aid from La Grande, and one piece of apparatus was sent to the city's aid. When the La Grande apparatus arrived the building had been burning for more than half an hour and the combined efforts of both groups of fire fighters were insufficient to save the structure. The gymnasium building, nearby, was saved. The two story structure, erected shortly after the turn of the century, housed both the elementary and secondary grades of the Elgin school system. School authorities today said they estimated the loss at approximately \$60,000. They also announced that arrangements are being made to house the various school classes in the American Legion hall, First Christian church, and other similar places of assembly in the community beginning Wednesday.

Americans Reach Po River Line

ROME, April 23 (UP)—U. S. fifth army troops reached the Po river at several points today. Units of the British eighth army also reached the Po at other points. The Germans were offering stiff resistance in the Ferrara area, which has been under attack by the British.

Senators Ponder Fate Of 18-Year-Olds

WASHINGTON, April 23 (UP)—The senate refused today to stipulate that 18 and 19-year-old inductees be given at least a year's training before being sent into combat. Senators turned down the proposal by a vote of 66 to 9 and then began considering whether to ban front-line service for 18-year-old inductees who have not been in training for six months. Both proposals were offered as amendments to the selective service act.

Former Prisoner of Nazis Back For Long Rest With Family Here

First Lt. Donald M. Hunker, liberated from a German prison camp by advancing Russian armies, arrived in La Grande Friday night for a 60-day leave with his wife, Marion, and their small son, Billy. Lt. Hunker, overseas a year, wears a presidential citation ribbon, the silver star for gallantry in action, the bronze star for meritorious service, the Purple Heart with two clusters, a ribbon for the European theater of operations with three campaign stars and the combat infantryman's badge. The Silver Star was awarded after he and his platoon closed the gap at Chambols. They were the first to shake hands with the Poles. He was captured in the first drive across the Moselle river, and was held captive for two and one-half months. In speaking of the most impressive thing about the prison camp, Lt. Hunker said, "The morale of the American internees and their confidence in the allies' success in the conclusion of the war, the deprivations and hardships imposed upon them has been striking. Any time the prisoners kept themselves in reserve

Marines Land On 2 Islands Off Okinawa

By United Press American air forces struck damaging blows against the Japanese over the weekend. Marines landed on two more islands off Okinawa where U. S. army troops battled with little success for the fourth straight day against Japanese defenses above Naha, the capital. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed that the airmen had wrecked 126 Japanese planes and six ships in two days of action along an 850-mile front from Japan to the southern Ryukyus. Additional planes may have been destroyed in two raids by superfortresses on Kyushu airfields from which Japanese aircraft have been flying against ground and naval forces in the Okinawa area. Carrier planes shot down 49 Japanese aircraft from a force which attacked the Okinawa area Sunday afternoon. Four other Japanese planes were downed Saturday. Nimitz said the Japanese sank one light fleet unit. Honshu Raided Mustang fighters from Iwo Jima destroyed or damaged 47 enemy planes in an attack on Suzuki airfield (32 miles southwest of Nagoya) on the Japanese home island of Honshu Sunday. The Mustangs also swept Ise bay south of Nagoya and sank two small oilers, a small tanker and a 6,000 to 8,000 ton cargo ship. See MARINES . . . Page 5

Leroy Darling To Be Superintendent Of Irrigon School

Leroy Darling, for three years a member of the La Grande high school faculty, and well known for his work with the school band, today announced he has been appointed superintendent of schools at Irrigon. He said he plans to leave La Grande early in July to make his home in that community and take up the new work. Darling tendered his resignation to the local board of education. He said his family will accompany him when he leaves soon after the close of the school year here.

Death of Himmler In Wreck Hinted

LONDON, April 23 (UP)—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch from the northwestern front tonight said a question has been raised whether one of three bodies found in a wrecked car might be that of Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief and commander of the German home army. The car was found burned out on the Bremen-Hamburg road.

Basque Influence On Sheep Industry Told Lion's Club

Joseph Gaiser, of the Eastern Oregon college faculty was the speaker at the weekly luncheon meeting of the La Grande Lions Club, in the Stein coffee shop today. He spoke of the history and culture of the Basque people, whose home lies in the Pyrenees mountain district of north Spain. He also traced the history of their immigration in this country and outlined what he called "Basque territory" here as bounded by the cities of Winnemucca, Nevada, Boise, Idaho, and Jordan Valley, Oregon. Pointing out that people of this nationality were largely responsible for the high development of the sheep raising industry, and had made this work more or less of an exact science, he praised their resourcefulness and classed them as definitely one of the higher types to make this country their home, and who had become good Americans. Committee reports were given by the following club members: progress of the UNRRA clothing drive, Gordon Capps; national cancer drive, Bert Worley; and victory gardening, Jesse Rosenbaum. Guests were chief of police Clyde Lund, and Lt. Bill Kline, formerly of La Grande, now in the U. S. navy. L. M. Compton of the state forestry department and attorney Colon Eberhard were introduced as new members.

Tickets for Hayes Lecture on Sale

Tickets to hear Sam Hayes speak in La Grande at noon, May 4, at the Elks club, are now available at the chamber of commerce office. Hayes is regional director for the national committee on living war memorials, and is making a tour of western areas to explain the program. Charles H. Reynolds, La Grande, is a member of the governor's committee for furtherance of the living memorials, which will be of constant use to the community. The suggested memorials have been swimming pools, tennis courts or similar recreational facilities.

La Grande Evening Observer

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 23, 1945 HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON Union and Wallowa Counties

Weather Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m., April 23: Temperature: Maximum 62, Minimum 37, Precipitation .04. Forecast: Showers tonight, clearing and cooler Tuesday.

Yanks Drive Into Danube Valley

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ELBE RIVER BRIDGE NAMED FOR PRESIDENT TRUMAN—As a tribute to their new commander in chief, U. S. army engineers named the Treadway bridge they built under fire over the river the "Truman bridge." A brush-welding engineer adds the finishing touch as he labels it, "The Gateway to Berlin." Signal corps radio-telephoto.

Delegates Gather For Security Parley Of United Nations

SAN FRANCISCO, April 23 (UP)—The United States delegation to the United Nations conference met for the first time here today as the Big Three powers conferred at Washington in a last minute attempt to iron out the Polish dispute. Planes landing at nearby airfields and every train crossing the Sierra brought more delegates and advisers to the conference. But most of the principals still are absent. French Foreign Minister George Bidault, chairman of his delegation, and French Minister of Public Health Francois Bilouze, a delegate, were among today's arrivals. Five of the seven U. S. delegates met in an apparently routine preliminary session at their hotel here. They were Sen. Arthur Vandenberg, R., Mich.; Rep. Charles A. Eaton, R., N. J.; Rep. Sol Bloom, D., N. Y.; Cmdr. Harold Stassen, and Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard college. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, chairman of the delegation, was in Washington, where he conferred with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Soviet Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov on the thorny Polish problem. He later conferred with President Truman at the White House. Dutch Oppose Veto Plan Netherlands Foreign Minister E. N. Van Kleffens, chief of his country's delegation, said the Dutch group will propose seven amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks charter.

Evidence of Jap Cannibalism Found On New Guinea, Leyte

Editor's Note: After more than two years, United Press Vice-President Frank H. Batholomew is at last permitted to disclose evidence of Japanese cannibalism which he obtained on a tour of Pacific fighting fronts back in the winter of 1942-43. Relaxation of army censorship restrictions on the subject finally enables him to present the following dispatch. SAN FRANCISCO, April 23 (UP)—To the recent disclosures concerning the cruelty of the Japanese toward war prisoners, I can now add evidence that the Japanese have a callous disregard for war dead, including their own men, and that they practiced cannibalism in New Guinea. The facts that I learned there and on other fronts emphasize the ruthless nature of our enemy, as do the recent wholesale atrocities in the Philippines and Adm. William F. Halsey's disclosure of cannibalism in Leyte. During a tour of the New Guinea fighting front early in 1943 I was told by responsible allied officers that there was evidence that Japanese troops, cut off from supplies, ate parts of the bodies of American and Australian dead. I flew over the Owen Stanley range to the front from Port Moresby at the turn of the year in 1943 and was shown grim evidence of the savage practices in perimeters of dry ground in the jungle where the Japanese finally had been wiped out by mortar and field artillery fire followed by infantry charges. There was no evidence anywhere at that time that the Japanese practiced cannibalism. See EVIDENCE . . . Page 5

Postmasters Sought In Elgin, Wallowa

WASHINGTON, Apr. 23 (UP)—Applications will be received by the civil service commission through May 10 for postmaster positions in Wallowa, Siletz, Monro and Elgin, all in Oregon.

'Big Three' Aides Seek Accord On Polish Problem

WASHINGTON, April 23 (UP)—The foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain and Russia conferred for an hour and a half again today in an eleventh-hour attempt to straighten out Big Three disagreements before the San Francisco conference. At the conclusion of the meeting, the second since Soviet Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov's arrival by airplane yesterday, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr., hastened to the White House. Reports to President It was assumed he went there to report to President Truman on today's discussions with Molotov and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. The foreign ministers, striving to achieve a united front on the organization of the Polish government and other problems, indicated they will meet again later today. They expect to leave tonight for San Francisco where the world security conference opens on Wednesday. Eden talked with Stettinius alone before Molotov's arrival at the secretary's office and for five minutes after Molotov left the meeting. Stettinius refused to say whether the foreign ministers made any progress in today's discussions. Throughout the meeting, the corridors outside the secretary's office were patrolled by both Russian and U. S. secret service men.

Women Will Pack Relief Clothing

Clothing to relieve the distress of the destitute people of the areas liberated from axis subjugation will be packed for shipment tomorrow in the receiving depot in the L. C. Smith building on Depot street by members of the auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A. B. Olson and Lynn Larson, co-chairmen of the Union county campaign of the United national clothing collection, today urged that anyone who has clean, wearable cast-off garments or shoes take them to the receiving depot immediately, that they may be prepared for shipment at the earliest possible moment. All types of clothing are needed, they said, and it should be clean and suitable for wear "as is," as the committee had no cleaning or mending facilities.

Elgin Soldier Is Killed in Europe

The death in action in the European theater of operations of Sgt. Paul W. Phillips of Elgin is announced in an official casualty list released today by the war department. The announcement, which was issued after relatives have been notified, is the first of his kind in the family. Sgt. Phillips of Elgin, was killed in action in Europe.

Truman Confers With War Chiefs

WASHINGTON, April 23 (UP)—President Truman conferred for an hour today with his foreign and military affairs high command, but what the conference was about remained a guarded war secret. Participating in the conference was Major-Gen. John R. Dean, former secretary to the chiefs-of-staff and more recently the head of a military mission to the Soviet Union. Each of the conferees declined to discuss the meeting. Summoned to the White House were Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr., Secretary of Navy James Forrestal, Gen. George C. Marshall, army chief-of-staff, Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the U. S. fleet, and Admiral William D. Leahy, the president's personal chief-of-staff.

WORK BILL DIES

WASHINGTON, April 23 (UP)—The "work or else" labor bill, strongly urged by the late President Roosevelt, was rejected today by the house to its millinery (fourth committee). It generally conceded that it meant the burial of manpower measure.

SHIRLEY HAS BIRTHDAY

HOLLYWOOD, April 23 (UP)—Shirley Temple, today quietly observed her 17th birthday. Only a small party was given with her family and her new fiancée, Sgt. Jack Agar.

Americans, French Open Battle For Bavarian Hideout

PARIS, April 23 (UP)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. third army drove forward an additional 21 miles in its Bavarian offensive today and broke into the Danube valley 13 miles northeast of Regensburg. Three American and French armies had opened the battle for Nazi Germany's last retreat in the Bavarian Alps. Patton's foot soldiers gained 18 miles on the southeast sector and reached Burglengenfeld, 13 miles northeast of Regensburg. Eleventh armored units pushed forward 21 miles to reach the wetterfeld vicinity of the Regensburg river, 24 miles northwest of Regensburg. Other units of the third army fanned out northwest and south-southwest of Regensburg. Prison Camp Taken Patton's tank columns reeled off gains of as much as 32 miles in as many hours, sweeping up thousands of stunned Nazi prisoners and liberating at least one enemy prisoner-of-war camp with hundreds of allied captives. Late dispatches said the third army crossed the Naab river on a seven-mile front after capturing Nabburg and Schwarzenfeld and pushed southeast four to five miles to the Kemmath and Wilhof areas. At Kemmath, they were 23 miles north of the Danubian fortress of Regensburg, little more than 70 miles from Munich and 123 miles from Berchtesgaden. Move Down Danube Other third army forces were moving down on the Danube along a front of more than 30 miles extending west from the Naab river to Neumarkt, 18 miles southwest of Nuernberg, Amberg, 14 miles west of the See PATTON . . . Page 5

Soft Coal Wage Contract Given Approval of WLB

WASHINGTON, April 23 (UP)—The war labor board today unanimously approved the wage provisions of the new soft coal contract. Operators estimated the contract would increase miners' wages by an average of \$1.30 a day and the production cost of coal by 25 cents a ton. The WLB said that the wage adjustments will become effective only if approved by Stabilization Director William H. Davis—unless the office of price administration determines no price relief will be required. All of the producers have asked an OPA for price relief, however, and OPA has begun a study which it hopes to complete this week. This would permit Davis to make a decision by May 1. Operators have asked that a decision be made by then, and the United Mine Workers extended the old contract until that time.

Anti-Jap Action Branded 'Rackets'

SEATTLE, April 23 (UP)—Dillon S. Myer, national director of the war relocation authority, said today that persons who belong to anti-Japanese-American organizations are "trying to lay the same groundwork of racism in the United States as Hitler developed in Germany." The organizations, he predicted, will break up as soon as "the good people" realize they are "rackets." Professional promoters are putting Jap hating on a paying basis, he said. They aim to make money regardless of how it may affect the nation. Myer described Seattle as "the worst city in the country as far as such promotional schemes are concerned." By Jan. 1, 1945, the WRA had said, 34,000 eligible Japanese-Americans would have been resettled and the work of the WRA ended. About 50 per cent of that number will return to the Pacific coast to assist, most of them during the summer.

Heiress and Noted Conductor Marry

HOLLYWOOD, April 23 (UP)—Gloria Vanderbilt, 21-year-old heiress, and her new husband, Leopold Stokowski, the 58-year-old orchestra-conductor, were believed in seclusion here today on a quiet honeymoon after their marriage in Mexico, Mex., Saturday night. The wedding was revealed yesterday by Apolonio Nunez, Mexican civil judge, who performed the ceremony. The wedding occurred a day after Miss Vanderbilt, who inherited a \$4346,000 fortune on her 21st birthday, obtained a Reno divorce from Pasquale (Pat) Di Cicco, Hollywood actor's agent.

Ernie Pyle First Live Jap Soldiers Seen By Writer

(Editor's Note: In addition to the story which appears here today, we will print several others which we have just received from Ernie on Okinawa. We believed he would have wanted us to. As a great reporter, a great newspaperman and a great person, he would have wanted his stories to go through, despite his tragic death.) By ERNIE PYLE OKINAWA—(By Navy Radio)—Now I've seen my first Jap soldiers in their native state—that is, before capture. But not for long, because the boys of my company captured them quicker than a wink. It was mid-forenoon and we had just reached our new bivouac area after a march of an hour and a half. The boys threw off their packs, sat down on the ground, and took off their helmets to mop their perspiring foreheads. We were in a small grassy spot at the foot of a hill. Most of these hillsides have caves and household stuff hidden in them. They are a rich field for souvenir hunters. And all marines are souvenir hunters. So immediately two of our boys, instead of resting, started up through the brush, looking for caves and souvenirs. They had gone about 50 yards when one of them yelled: "There's a Jap soldier under this brush." We didn't get too excited for most of us figured he meant a dead Jap. But three or four of the boys got up and went up the hill. A few moments later somebody yelled again: "Hey, here's another one. They're alive and they've got rifles." So the boys went at them in earnest. The Japs were lying under two bushes. They had their hands up over their ears and were pretending to be asleep. The marines surrounded the bushes and, with guns pointing, they ordered the Japs out. But the Japs were too scared to move. They just lay there, blinking. The average Jap soldier would See PYLE . . . Page 6