

Reds Capture of Berlin Imminent

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m., April 24.
Temperatures:
Maximum 51
Minimum 37
Precipitation .30
Forecast—Showers tonight and Wednesday.
ESTABLISHED 1896

La Grande Evening Observer
HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties
LA GRANDE, OREGON TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 24, 1945
FIVE CENTS

Juncture of Soviet, American Forces Is Reported by Moscow

WITH U. S. FIRST ARMY, Germany, April 24 (UP)—A linkup of the Red army and the American first army may be expected tomorrow.

It is impossible to give the exact location of Russian columns reported pushing through weakening German resistance, but it now seems reasonably certain that the long awaited meeting will come tomorrow.

While there is no guarantee the meeting will take place tomorrow, there are several reasons to expect it then. At least two non-German columns have been observed by airmen. A German colonel in charge of a large prison camp marched his 12,000 charges into the American lines today and said he was giving up his prisoners because the Russians were nearing his camp.

Yanks Crack Inner Bavarian Lines

Elgin Will Erect Modern Schools to Replace Old Building Razed by Fire

Plans for construction of a new elementary and high school in Elgin to replace the structure razed by fire Saturday night were announced today by school officials.

While exact design, costs and other details were not available pending definite decision on various phases of the building project, it was revealed the school trustees contemplate erection of separate one-story units to house the elementary and secondary grades instead of a single unit, such as that which was burned.

Stettinius Sees Hope for Success Of Security Parley

SAN FRANCISCO, April 24 (UP)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., expressed confidence today the world security conference will succeed and Britain repledged her support to Russia's demand for three votes in the security assembly.

Britain's pledge was placed on record by Maj. Clement R. Attlee, deputy prime minister, who also expressed hope that the knotty Polish controversy might be settled along the lines of the Yalta proposal for broadening the base of the present Warsaw government.

Attlee said that since the Ukraine and White Russia both have foreign ministers the Russian proposal that these states be represented in the security assembly is sound.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov are due here later by plane from Washington.

Stettinius' sentiments were echoed by the veteran statesman, Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, South African premier and the only veteran of Versailles who is playing a major role at San Francisco.

First session tomorrow

The first plenary conference session is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., PWT tomorrow. With scarcely more than 24 hours to go, the big three found themselves in the embarrassing position of being unable to settle a misunderstanding which they thought they had cleared up last winter in the Crimea.

Congress Acts To Honor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, April 24 (UP)—Congress today took its first official action on a series of bills designed to honor the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The house judiciary committee approved legislation to award the nation's highest decoration, the medal of honor, to Roosevelt posthumously.

Interior Budget Slashed Sharply

WASHINGTON, April 24 (UP)—The house appropriations committee slashed \$28,743,419 from the interior department requests today, recommending that the department be given \$102,602,628 for the fiscal year beginning next July 1.

The committee noted that the department's revenues, principally from power projects, were expected to reach \$74,500,000 during the 1946 fiscal year and expressed the hope that revenues would equal operating expenditures by the next fiscal year.

RENT CONTROL SLATED

ROSEBURG, Ore., April 24 (UP)—Federal rent control will become effective May 1 in Douglas county, McDaniel Brown, Portland district OPA director, announced today.

All rents on that date in Douglas county will be automatically set at the level of Jan. 1, 1945.

Probe Launched Into Death Of North Powder Man

Albert Bowman's Body Is Found In Shallow Well

State police today are investigating the death of Albert Bowman, 58, wealthy stockman of the North Powder district, whose battered body was found yesterday in a shallow well on his ranch on the Wolf Creek road, about 3 miles west of North Powder.

While the officers, District Attorney C. R. Eberhard and Coroner L. L. Snodgrass declined to say there was any evidence of foul play, they said the circumstances surrounding the case are such that a thorough investigation was deemed necessary.

Well Opening Small

The opening through which Bowman fell or was pushed, authorities said, was made by apparent removal of a 12-inch plank. The well had not been used recently and the pit was covered by several boards, they said.

The authorities announced an autopsy is to be conducted late today by Dr. Joe Beeman, state autopsy surgeon, who came today from Portland.

Allied Prisoner Mistreatment To Bring Punishment

WASHINGTON, April 24 (UP)—President Truman, in his first formal role as a member of the Big Three, sought today to prevent further execution, starvation or torture of allied nationals in the hands of the crumbling German army.

At the same time it appeared that German forces no longer have the transport facilities to move prisoners out of the path of advancing allied armies. This seemed to be the reason behind the German offer—accepted by this government—to leave all prisoners of war in the camps where they are now being held.

3 Marine Airmen Bag 16 Japanese

ADOBE ADM. TURNER'S FLAGSHIP OFF OKINAWA, April 24 (UP)—Three marines became aces in 20 minutes of aerial combat about 60 miles northwest of Okinawa last night.

They were Maj. George C. Astell, Jr., 24, commanding officer of a marine fighter squadron who shot down five Japanese bombers and damaged three others; Maj. Jefferson Davis Dorrah, 24, who sent 6 bombers crashing into the sea; and Lt. Jeremiah J. O'Keefe, 21, who bagged five bombers.

Baseball Results

National League	
Philadelphia	000 100 010 2 5 2
New York	200 000 30x 5 7 1
Raffa—Berger and Peacock; Hansen and Lombardi; HHR: For NY—Ott 1st 1 on; 7th 1 on. For Fla.—Dinges 8th, none on.	
Chicago at Cincinnati postponed, rain.	
American League	
Boston at Washington, postponed, rain.	
St. Louis at Cleveland, postponed, rain.	
Detroit at Chicago, postponed, rain.	



THEY CAN'T WIN — Previously damaged in an earlier attack, the Jap cruiser shown above put into Singapore harbor and got a temporary bow, permitting it to proceed to "safety" in Jap home waters. But a U. S. Air Apaches B-25 group, led by Lt. George R. Schmidt of Gooding, Idaho, caught the vessel a second time in the China sea, this time fatally, and scored direct hits with 500-pound bombs which, as photo shows, finished off the ship.

Stores Will Close Tomorrow For Paper, Can Collection

Business will be suspended in La Grande tomorrow afternoon, and many residents of the community will turn their attention to the salvaging of waste paper and tin cans, both of which are vitally needed to supplement the nation's paper and tin supplies.

Senate Approves 6-Months Training For 18-Year-Olds

WASHINGTON, Apr. 24 (UP)—The senate today adopted an amendment to the selective service extension act requiring six months pre-combat training for 18-year-olds.

The action was taken by vote of 50 to 25, despite appeals by administration leaders that the amendment would hamper the war effort and perhaps endanger "thousands of American lives."

Scouts Will Aid

Dennis Miller, waste paper chairman of the junior chamber, said scouts and cubs who are to participate in the collection will be released from school for the afternoon upon application by their scoutmasters. The boys, who have been collecting waste paper for some time, will accompany the trucks to the storage places.

Collection Calls Arranged

Miller said it will be impossible for the junior chamber's collectors to make a house-to-house canvass because of the lack of facilities, but that anyone who has a sizable amount of paper, securely tied in bundles not exceeding 50 pounds, may notify the chamber of commerce, telephone 18, before 2 p.m. tomorrow and an effort will be made to pick it up.

Marshal Petain to Surrender, Stand Trial on Treason Charge

BERN, April 24 (UP)—Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, chief of state of the defunct Vichy government, fled into Switzerland from Germany today preparatory to surrendering to French authorities.

A Swiss government announcement said Petain had been granted permission to enter Switzerland on his plea that he wished to return to France to answer charges of treason.

Menace Last Nazi Fortress

PARIS, April 24 (UP)—American third army troops broke open the outer defenses of Hitler's Bavarian redoubt on a broad front today and rammed an armored spearhead up to the Danube river on the western outskirts of Regensburg.

East of Regensburg, the 11th armored division in a 23-mile spurt along the Cham-Regen road reached the area of Arnsreid, 35 miles from the Austrian border and 94 miles north of Berchtesgaden.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army tanks and armored troop carriers reached the northwestern bend of the Danube opposite Regensburg—the old Napoleonic city of Ratisbon—this afternoon after a 10-mile advance through weak and disorganized enemy opposition.

A few Nazi snipers battled the speeding American armored columns along the west side of the historic river, but were cut down. Field dispatches indicated the Germans were planning a delaying fight on the eastern bank of the Danube and inside Regensburg, where the enemy was reported throwing up barricades.

Okinawa to Be Key U. S. Base For Drive on Japan

By United Press

The Tokyo domestic radio said today that 2,100,000 persons in Tokyo had been made "disaster victims" during the American raids on the Japanese capital from March 1 to the middle of April.

The broadcast, recorded by FCC, said 510,000 homes had been destroyed and seven wards in the industrial section of the city were "mostly in ruins as the result of fires."

Soldiers Over 42 To be Discharged

WASHINGTON, April 24 (UP)—The war department announced today that army enlisted men 42 or over may be discharged from the service upon application.

Applications for discharge by such men will be rejected only if they are undergoing disciplinary action or require further medical or surgical treatment, the war department said.

Man Stricken On Train Succumbs

Stricken with a sudden illness while on his railroad run Sunday, William Henry Malone, 53, Union Pacific brakeman, of 708 M avenue, was taken to St. Anthony's where he died yesterday in the Pendleton hospital.

Man Hunter and Fugitive Slain

PRICE, Utah, April 24 (UP)—A nine-hour gun battle between a sharp-shooting mental patient and 15 sheriff's deputies was ended today with the fugitive and S. H. Bliss, a veteran sheriff, dead.

A posse of deputies and state highway patrolmen set out yesterday in search of Angus Robb, recently discharged mental hospital patient, in connection with the ambush murder of Verdon Pace, 35-year-old rancher. They tracked him to the hills, cornering him on a far-gut and one-half mile northeast of here.

Italian Naval Base Taken By Americans

ROME, April 24 (UP)—U. S. fifth army troops captured the big Italian naval base of La Spezia today and crossed the Po river at several points north of Bologna.

At least 40,000 prisoners were captured by Gen. Mark Clark's swift-moving 15th army group.

Ernie Pyle

Marines in Jap Kimonos Give Writer a Laugh

(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 newsman, he would have wanted his stories to go through, despite his tragic death.)

War Workers Strike

DETROIT, April 24 (UP)—Production of vital war materials again was halted at the main plant of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Co. Today when more than 2,000 workers walked off their jobs in protest against the discharge of 13 employees.