

American Troops Race For Berchtesgaden

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La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 25, 1945

FIVE CENTS



Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.,
April 25:
Temperature:
Maximum 51
Minimum 30
Precipitation .05
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight
and Thursday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

Berlin Encircled by Soviet Armies

Big Four Meet As Delegates Gather For Peace Parley

WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE, San Francisco, April 25 (UP) — The big four sponsoring powers convened a surprise meeting among themselves today a few hours before the United Nations conference for international organization was to begin its task of safeguarding world peace.

New Ration Board Head To Be Named

War price and rationing board panel members this morning met in emergency session at the call of R. O. Williams, coordinator of the Union county office of civilian defense, to consider appointment of a chairman for the board.

Americans Crack Jap Defense Of Okinawa Capital

American troops broke through Japanese defenses on southern Okinawa today to seize an important hill feature north of Naha, the capital, while marines occupied three more nearby islands.

La Grande Soldier Killed in Action

Announcement of the death in action of Clarence E. Bowman, army technician fourth grade, of La Grande, is made in a casualty list released today by the war department. He was killed in the European theater.

Smoke Pall Shrouds German Capital

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Flames Ravage Once Beautiful City

By LOWELL THOMAS
PARIS, April 25 (UP)—Berlin is in flames from one end to the other. Dense clouds of smoke hide most of the city.

Woman Has Novel Way to Get Meat

BELLEVILLE, Ind., April 25 (UP) — Clarence Wessel, proprietor of a butcher shop, complained to police a woman entered his store, flashed a gun and demanded a four-pound roast. When he handed her the meat, he said, she threw \$2 and a handful of red points on the counter and fled.

Rotary Club Will Have International Night Program

La Grande Rotarians will gather with their wives at their annual international night program at the Stein cafe next Wednesday night at 7 o'clock to hear Dr. G. Robinson of the state college organization discuss "A Visitor to Wartime China."

Young Orator is Guest

Program of the day featured Ruth Barlow of La Grande high school, who recently was awarded second place in a statewide American Legion oratorical contest and who was sponsored as entrant by the La Grande American Legion post. Topic of Miss Barlow's address was "The Constitution."

War Loan Group Named

President Treve Lumsden appointed a committee to assist in the Seventh war loan drive now underway. Headed by R. J. Green, the committee includes George Cochran, Ed H. Ford, Martin Fitzgerald, Elmer McManus and H. A. Zurbrick.

District Meeting Of VFW Will Be Held Here Sunday

Veterans of Foreign Wars from district No. 15, which includes Union, Baker, Umatilla and Wallowa counties, will hold their district meeting at 2 p. m. Sunday in the K. of P. hall. J. H. York, of Baker, district commander, will preside.

County Committee Selected to Promote Living War Memorials

Appointment of a Union county committee on living war memorials to serve in conjunction with a state group was announced today by Charles H. Reynolds, a member of the state group appointed sometime ago by Governor Earl Snell.

Junior Chamber Has Dinner Session

La Grande junior chamber of commerce members met last evening at the Stein coffee shop banquet room for their business session and dinner. Discussion covered last minute details for the paper drive.

College Graduate To Get Scholarship

President Roben J. Maaske of Eastern Oregon college today announced receipt of a \$100 scholarship from Mt. Emily Lumber company, through its president A. J. Stange.

Baseball Results

American League
St. Louis at Cleveland (2) postponed.
Boston at Philadelphia, postponed, rain.
National League
Brooklyn at Boston, postponed.
Philadelphia at New York, postponed, rain.

Danube Crossing Reported

PARIS, April 25 (UP) — American third army troops drove 15 miles through disorganized German opposition to within 75 miles of Berchtesgaden today and unconfirmed reports said other American columns had stormed across the Danube river into Regensburg.

Probe Continues In North Powder Rancher's Death

State authorities today continued their investigation into the circumstances of the death Sunday night of Albert Bowman, wealthy stockman of the North Powder district, after receiving a report from Dr. Joe Beeman, autopsy surgeon, that an autopsy conducted late yesterday revealed a fractured skull and other injuries.

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SPRING SHOW DANCERS — Among the featured performers at the annual spring show of La Grande high school Friday evening will be Nancy Fitzgerald, left, and Lynn Russell. Miss Fitzgerald will appear in a Mexican hat dance, and Miss Russell is a South seas number.



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Spring Festival of Music and Dance to be Staged Friday Night by High School Group

The annual spring concert of the La Grande high school will be presented Friday evening with a program international in character with numbers dedicated to the "good neighbor" policy and the United Nations.

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Defense Doomed As Bitter Battle Is Waged in Streets

LONDON, April 25 (UP) — Two Red armies completed the encirclement of Berlin today, snapping a trap on its fanatical Nazi defenders and dooming them to surrender or stand and die without hope of reinforcement.

Bombers Raze Hitler Home In Bavaria

LONDON, April 25 (UP) — The Royal air force wrecked Adolf Hitler's country house near Berchtesgaden today with a direct hit by a six-ton earthquake bomb.

State's Aviation Program to Be Conference Topic

Oregon's plans in aviation for the next fiscal year will be discussed at a meeting of the state board of aeronautics called for April 27 at 9:30 a. m. in the offices of the board in Portland.

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Ernie Pyle

Marine Tumbles From Bike In Being Polite

(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 PLYE
OKINAWA (By Navy Radio)—One morning after breakfast about a dozen of us were sitting on the mat covered floor of a little Okinawan house talking things over while nipping our coffee.

Our first division marine company had just moved in the night before and several days' accumulation of grime covered everybody. Suddenly Lieut. "Bones" Carstens stood up and said: "I cleaned my goggles this morning and it sure does feel good."

And then my friend Bird Dog Clayton held his own begrimed hands out in front of him, looked at them a long time and said: "If I was to go to dinner in Dallas and lay them things up on a white tablecloth I wonder what would happen?"

Good many of the Okinawan civilians, while wandering along the roadside, bow low to every American they meet. Whether this is from fear or native courtesy I do not know, but anyhow they do it. And the Americans being Americans usually bow right back.

One of the marines I know got mixed up in one of these little See OKINAWAN . . . Page 3.