

Soviets Take Stettin, Crush Berlin

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.,
April 26:
Temperature:
Maximum 60
Minimum 33
Forecast: Cloudy and unsettled
tonight and Friday.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 26, 1945

FIVE CENTS

German Defenses of Bremen Collapse

American 3rd Army Races Over Bohemia For Passau Assault

LONDON, April 26 (UP) — The Brussels radio said tonight that American and Russian troops had joined forces on a 12½-mile front.

PARIS, April 26 (UP) — Allied armies bending back both wings of Germany's western front captured the wrecked North sea port of Bremen today and drove within 8½ miles of the Austro-German-Czechoslovak border triangle.

Gen. George S. Patton's free-wheeling third army spurred in over the approaches of Passau, Bavarian fortress 67 miles from Berchtesgaden, and broadened its drive against the nazis "national dedoubt" in thrusts toward Munich, Salzburg and Linz.

Regensburg, beleaguered Danube stronghold, was almost encircled by troops tumbling across the Danube on a broad front. Advanced spearheads were within 40 miles of Munich.

German resistance in Bremen collapsed suddenly this afternoon after more than a week of savage, close-in fighting and three days of concentrated aerial bombardment that reduced the reich's second port to rubble.

Front dispatches said a few die-hard nazis, including the Bremen commander, Gen. Becker, still were holding out, but complete capture of the city seemed imminent.

(A BBC broadcast recorded by FCC monitors in New York said Bremen had been captured.) Thousands of German civilians swarmed up from cellar dugouts, however, to greet the incoming British.

The second and greatest nazi redoubt already was shaking in the south under the blows of four American, French and Russian armies closing in from the north, northwest, west and east on Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat.

Gen. George S. Patton's U. S. third army was far out in front of the four-cornered drive, moving southward along the Bohemian plateau on Passau, only 98 miles from a juncture with Red army troops advancing from the east.

2,751 Britons Are Killed by V-Bombs

LONDON, April 26 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill told commons today that German V-2 attacks on England ended March 27 and revealed that the giant rockets killed 2,754 persons and injured 6,523.

Asked whether he now was able to make a statement on the V-2 bomb raids, Churchill said: "Yes, sir, they have ceased."

Support Price On Hogs Is Extended

WASHINGTON, April 26 (UP)—The war food administration has extended the support price plan on good and choice butcher hogs to include animals weighing up to 300 pounds.

The support price, announced April 11 and due to remain in effect until Sept. 1, 1946, is \$13 per 100 pounds.

Ernie Pyle

Mosquito Trouble Continues to Plague 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, April 26 (By Navy Radio)—One of these days Mrs. Leland Taylor of Jackson, Mich., is going to be the envy of all her friends. For she is about to come into possession of four pairs of the most beautiful Japanese pajamas you ever saw.

These are daytime pajamas or drawing room pajamas—the kind that some American hostesses wear to cozy cocktail parties.

Mrs. Taylor's husband, who is a marine corporal and known as "Pop," found these pajamas in a wicker basket hidden in a cave. They are thrilling to look at and soft to the touch.

Pop carries the basket around on his arm from place to place until he can get a chance to ship them home.

One morning I wandered down to our mortar platoon and ran onto a young fellow with whom I have a great deal in common. We are both from Albuquerque and we both have mosquito trouble.

This New Mexico lad was Pfc. Dick Trauth. Both his eyes were swollen almost shut from mosquito bites. At least one of mine is swollen shut every morning. We both look very funny.

Dick still is just a boy. He's seen nineteen months in the See WIFE . . . Page 5

British Move To Speed Security Parley Planned

Russian Vote, Pole Question May Be Delayed

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26 (UP)—Moving in an environment of anxiety that V-E day may overtake this United Nations conference before it completes its labors, the British delegation was understood to have decided today to urge an immediate speed-up of proceedings.

The British were expected to make their hurry-up proposal at once, perhaps before there can be a showdown on Russia's request for three votes in the organization assembly and her demand for admission of Poland to this conference.

The British are expected to suggest that this conference simply outline the general structure of the proposed international organization to maintain peace. Details—perhaps including the number of assembly votes to be enjoyed by Russia—might be filled in later.

The European war's end in the midst of conference deliberations would divert much delegate interest to postwar territorial, political and economic matters, it was felt here. Therefore the British were understood to argue that the conference should do its job quickly.

Russia, however, may at any time submit her request that the Ukraine and White Russian republics be seated here. Also pending is the matter of admitting Argentina to conference membership.

Truman Urges Action
The conference began yesterday in a spirit of determination to protect world peace, but with general recognition that there are obstacles to be overcome before See BRITISH . . . Page 7

Goering Relieved Of Air Command

LONDON, April 26 (UP)—The Hamburg radio reported tonight that Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering had been relieved of the command of the German air force.

Gen. Ritter von Grein was reported to have succeeded Goering and to have been raised to the rank of field marshal after his appointment.

The nazi radio said Goering was suffering from acute heart disease, asked to be relieved of the luftwaffe command, and Adolf Hitler granted his request.

B-29's Take Heavy Toll of Japanese

CHUNGKING, April 26 (UP)—All Tokyo newspapers prominently displayed a Japanese government announcement that 3,170,000 casualties had been caused by six weeks of B-29 raids, a Tokyo Japanese language broadcast said today.

The papers asked the Japanese people to follow the example of the "gallant spirit of the German people, whose young boys and girls are still fighting in Berlin."

Many U. S. Prisoners Of Nazis Liberated

WASHINGTON, April 26 (UP)—Between 20,000 and 25,000 U. S. war prisoners have been liberated by allied forces which have overrun at least 47 of 78 German prisoner-of-war camps and hospitals, the war department said today.

These figures are based on information in the hands of the war and state departments and the International Red Cross as of April 23. No additional information has been received here since then, the war department said.



G. I. DELEGATE — Pvi. Alfred M. Lillenthal of New York who is sitting among the statesmen in the United Nations at the San Francisco security conference as a consultant for the United States delegation on matters concerning veterans of World War II.

Meat Rationing Rules Revised To Spread Supply

WASHINGTON, April 26 (UP)—Price Chief Chester Bowles today brought 99½ per cent of all meat under rationing in order to spread more evenly civilian supplies expected to drop another six million pounds in May.

Beginning Sunday and continuing until the start of the next ration period June 2, all meats except mutton will require red ration tickets, including cull and utility grades of veal and lamb and all grade of less popular cuts of veal and lamb such as breasts, shanks, necks and flanks.

Point Values Increased

Other changes in the meat and fat rationing program for May will be increases of one to two points per pound for most cuts of lamb and veal and one point for most beef steaks; decreases of one to two points on beef roasts and other cuts of beef; increases of four points (to 12 points a pound) for margarine; and two points for grade one cheese. "Butter and hamburger remain unchanged at 24 and 6 points per pound. So do ration values of lard, shortening, cooking and salad oils.

The expanded program for May puts meat rationing back where it was a year ago before most meats were made point free. Since then point values have been gradually restored until in April 94½ per cent was back on the ration list. Today's action makes it 99½ per cent.

The only meat that remains unrationed is some five million pounds of mutton.

Pétain Surrenders, Held for Treason

PARIS, April 26 (UP)—Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain started for France today to face trial as a traitor to his country.

Swiss dispatches reported the aged marshal and his party left the Swiss mountain town of Weesen at 9 a. m. for the frontier town of Vallorbes, where his extradition will take place tonight.

The 89-year-old "hero of Verdun" is penniless and the Swiss federal council paid his hotel bills in Weesen. The old hotel Mariahalden.

Defeat of School Support and State Building Fund Proposals Feared Due to Apathy of Voters

By ERIC W. ALLEN, Jr.

SALEM, Ore., April 26 (UP) — Considerable quiet support has been made evident in Oregon for the two school-support and construction tax measures to be voted upon by the people at the special election June 22.

But very little publicity has accompanied this support, and fear of lack of public support may defeat one or both of the measures.

The two proposed laws, resulting from the recent legislative session, provide for:

\$10,000,000 for a state building fund including \$6,000,000 for state institutions and \$4,000,000 for school and college buildings.

A tax of one-tenth of one cent per cigarette, to provide funds for school support, estimated at \$2,000,000 yearly.

The first measure, although described as a "five-mill tax levy" is that in name only. In reality the money will come from income tax surpluses, and no property tax will be levied at all unless some totally unforeseen circumstance cuts down income tax revenues.

C. C. Chapman, editor and publisher of the Oregon Voter, and a seasoned political observer in Oregon, puts forth the opinion that unless there is a campaign for (or, oddly, against) the cigarette tax, it may die a natural death.

Teachers Favor Tax
The Oregon State Teachers association recently voted about two to one in favor of the tax.

Most of the objections to it on the part of school people is the idea that schools would be supported by the sale of tobacco, something not encouraged in See DEFEAT . . . Page 2

Stored Coal Is Blamed for Fire in Elgin School

Fire which destroyed the Elgin school Saturday night today was attributed to spontaneous combustion in coal stored in the basement.

Capt. S. A. Malehorn, who came from the state police headquarters in Salem to investigate the fire, said it is evident the blaze started in the basement and was quickly communicated to the upper floor through an open waste paper chute.

He said the blaze in the coal pile apparently gained headway rapidly due to drafts created through the paper chute and the open door of the furnace firebox, which served as a natural draft and carried the smoke out the chimney.

He said there have been several other instances in this area over a period of a year or more in which fire has started in stored coal, but that most of the other fires were discovered before they had gained serious headway.

Churchill Warns V-E Day Does Not Mean End of War

LONDON, April 26 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill warned today that the celebration of V-E day should be tempered by a sober realization that the war with Japan still is to be won.

"It would be very foolish to have any celebrations or speeches made or joy bells rung about the defeat of Germany—after all a considerable event—without at the same time making it perfectly clear that our war with Japan goes forward," Churchill said.

Lady Astor, an ardent dry, interjected: "Is that the more reason why we should keep strictly sober?" Churchill, who takes no stock about liking a nip, snapped back: "We will trust the noble lady to set us an example in this."

Other Cities Liberated by Patriot Army

ROME, April 26 (UP) — American troops captured Verona today, an Italian patriot uprising was reported unofficially to have liberated Milan, Genoa and Turin, and all signs indicated German resistance in north Italy was collapsing.

(A Rome broadcast heard in London said allied forces were landing at Rapallo in the Gulf of Genoa northwest of the captured La Spezia naval base.)

A United Press dispatch from the field said the Italian cam-

By United Press
A Swiss telegraph agency

dispatch reported by the FCC said today that according to reports from reliable sources Benito Mussolini was captured by Italian patriots in Pallanza on the west shore of Lake Maggiore.

Mussolini was described as reaching Pallanza after flight from Milan, where an Italian patriot uprising was said unofficially to have liberated the city.

paign is drawing to a close, thanks to the magnificent punch of the fifth and eighth armies and close support of the air forces.

American fifth army troops overran Verona after a sweep of nearly 20 miles in a single day, the communique reported.

The Americans struck on across the Adige river in the vicinity of the city, which lies at the lower end of the defile leading up to the Brenner Pass.

Allied military authorities, whose armies were sweeping deep into northern Italy on the heels of routed German forces, withheld immediate confirmation of reports from the north of the rebellion against the nazis and fascists.

CAP Classes Will Meet at Airport

Civil Air Patrol classes tonight will meet at the airport, rather than in the high school, so that students will be able to use a torn down plane for demonstration purposes. The class will begin at 8 o'clock.

For transportation, students will go to Pearce's jewelry store at 7:30 p.m. Lt. William Pierson of the CAP, is the instructor.

Wife Says Rommel Died of Wounds

WITH U. S. SEVENTH ARMY.
Germany, April 26 (UP) — The wife of Marshal Erwin Rommel said today that the one-time desert fox of the Afrika Korps died at home in bed on Oct. 14 from a shrapnel wound in France on July 17.

Rommel's wife, Lucie Marie, was found in the Rommel home at Herlingen, five miles northwest of Ulm. She said the left side of Rommel's head was crushed in and his skull fractured when his car was attacked by a fighter-bomber in France.

OPA Will Present Movie About Meag

A motion picture, "Know Your Meat," produced by the community service panel of the OPA, will be shown publicly in La Grande at 8 p.m., Monday, at the Red Cross headquarters.

It is sponsored jointly by the Wives of Mothers Service club and the Navy Mothers club, and is designed to give an explanation of why there is rationing and to better familiarize the public with the various cuts and varieties of meat.

Flight of Nazis Is Blocked

LONDON, April 26 (UP)—Marshal Stalin announced tonight that the Red army had captured Brno, capital of Moravia.

LONDON, April 26 (UP)—Russian storm troops today captured Stettin, Germany's biggest Baltic port, and 80 miles to the southwest they burst into the heart of Berlin within 400 yards of where Adolf Hitler was reported directing the defense of the gutted capital.

Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's army forced the lower Oder and loosed a victorious blow at Stettin, unhinging the Baltic wing of the German defenses in the north and crippling any nazi bid to make a stand on the Mecklenburg plain.

At the other end of the eastern front the Moravian capital of Brno (Brno) fell to Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's second Ukrainian army. The fall of the big industrial and transportation center freed strong Soviet forces for the push into Bohemia and completion of the Czechoslovak campaign.

Stettin, on the west bank of the Oder estuary, fell to a new Soviet offensive synchronized with Marshal Stalin's end-the-war push against Berlin and toward a junction with the Anglo-American allies in the west.

In advances of more than 10 miles, the new drive also overran Schwedt, 45 miles northeast of Berlin; Kasekow, 31 southwest of Stettin; Penkun, 15 southwest of Stettin; and Gartz, 16 miles southwest of Stettin.

If Hitler was in Berlin — as the nazis have insisted for four days — time was running short for him. Berlin was surrounded by Red army troops and rescue by land was all but impossible. The Berlin Garrison was being pressed into a tight pocket in the center of the city.

Moscow dispatches said Russian troops had overrun the Tempelhof airfield and captured a number of planes with warmed-up motors, apparently preventing a last-minute escape flight by nazi leaders.

Extremist Plot In Argentina Nipped

BUENOS AIRES, April 26 (UP)—A number of persons were held in custody today following discovery of an extremist plot which the government said was designed to nullify Argentina's recent action on international policy.

The action referred to presumably was Argentina's declaration of war on the axis and its signing of the Chapultepec act.

A government communique described the plotters as thoroughly reactionary, although they attempted to give their activity a semblance of a democratic movement.

Tariff Talk Upsets House Committee

WASHINGTON, April 26 (UP)—Democratic and Republican members of the house ways and means committee batted charges back and forth at today's hearing on reciprocal trade legislation.

Democrats accused Republicans of stalling. Republicans accused Democrats of trying to rush things.

The squabble broke out as Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard returned for further questioning on legislation to renew the reciprocal trade agreements act. The bill would authorize the administration to cut tariff rates 50 per cent below present levels.

Rep. John D. Dingell, D. Mich., objecting to lengthy Republican questioning, demanded that the committee reach an understanding on the length of the hearings.

Baseball Results

American League
Detroit at Chicago postponed; rain.
Boston 000 000 100—1 10 0
Washington 210 001 00X—4 9 2
Dreiserwerd, Terry, Wilson and Garbark; Niggeling and Ferrell.
National League
Philadelphia 000 000 000—0 5 8
New York 001 000 10X—2 7 0
Schanz and Mancuso; Feldman and Lombardi.
Chicago at Cincinnati postponed; cold.
Brooklyn at Boston postponed; rain and cold.

To Subscribers of The Evening Observer

With the issue of May 1, 1945, the monthly rate by carrier of the La Grande Evening Observer will be \$1.00 a month.

This step is made necessary by constantly increasing costs of operation and distribution, such as equipment, supplies and newsprint.

We feel that our readers are willing to share our increased production and distribution costs with us, so that we can continue to maintain our high standards in the publication of your home area newspaper, which today is recognized as one of the outstanding of the northwest.

Mail rates will remain at the present scale of 85 cents a month and \$9.00 a year.

A portion of the increase will be passed on to your carriers who are doing a splendid wartime job in providing service to you.

THE EVENING OBSERVER

Frank Schiro
Editor and Publisher