

# Austro-German Armies Surrender

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## La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 5, 1945

1 pound of Waste Paper makes 2 Blood Plasma Boxes

SAVE WASTE PAPER!

**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours ending at 7 a. m.

Temperatures:  
Maximum 78  
Minimum 43

Forecast: Generally fair to-night and Sunday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

FIVE CENTS

# Arrest of Poles Disrupts Security Parley

## Capitulation of Big Norway Garrison of Nazis Expected Soon

LONDON, May 5 (UP) — An estimated 200,000 to 400,000 troops of the German army group defending Austria surrendered unconditionally to Gen. Jacob L. Devers today.

The second mass German surrender in two days collapsed resistance to the American and British forces on the continent except for Norway, Czechoslovakia, and some coastal pockets.

Germans in Czechoslovakia, eastern Austria and the Dresden-Chemnitz area of Germany still were fighting the Russians.

In the last two major islands of German resistance, Czechoslovak sources in London reported that a patriot uprising had liberated Prague, and a Nazi source said the commander of occupation forces in Norway had decided to surrender, with an announcement of capitulation expected at any time.

(The Swedish newspaper Stockholm-Tidningen in a dispatch reported by the FCC said the surrender of German forces in Norway was expected today. "Agreement already has been reached" between the allied and German authorities, it said, and "only technical details in connection with the evacuation of troops" remained.)

The Exchange Telegraph news agency said unconfirmed reports indicated the Nazis were negotiating for the withdrawal of all German troops from Czechoslovakia.

**Big Area Cleared**

Supreme headquarters in Paris announced the unconditional surrender of the German army group "G" — the first and 19th armies — to Devers, commander of the U. S. sixth army group. It obliterated Nazi resistance from the Czechoslovak border area north of Linz southwestward to the Swiss frontier.

Surrender of the German 24th army to the French first army was announced tonight by the See GERMAN ... Page 7

## Rainfall for Crop Year Is Below 33-Year Average

A material deficiency in precipitation for the crop year to May 1 is revealed in the monthly weather summary of the eastern Oregon livestock experiment station at Union.

It shows precipitation of 8.27 inches, or .74 inch less than the 33-year average, while the water supply for the month and the calendar year both are above the average for the same period.

The precipitation for the month was 1.52 inches, as compared with an average of 1.38, and that for the four month period was 5.77 inches, or .99 inch more than average. This included 4.2 inches of snow during the past month.

Precipitation of .91 inch or more was recorded on 13 days during April, the greatest amount being .29 inch on April 3 and 23.

Highest temperature of the month was 79 degrees on April 29, and the lowest 16 degrees on April 2.

There were 10 clear days, seven cloudy and 13 partly cloudy.

## Americans Waited at Elbe to Give Reds Time to Take Berlin

WITH U. S. NINTH ARMY IN GERMANY, April 24 (Delayed by censor) (UP) — The Ninth army was on the march to Berlin on April 15th when it suddenly got orders to halt at the Elbe river, it may be revealed today.

Untold thousands of American lives were saved when it was decided by high authorities to let the Red army alone take Berlin.

American forces never reached Potsdam and withdrew, as reported in the United States. On April 13th, the date of that false report, the most advanced elements of the Ninth were not more than 3,000 yards east of the Elbe.

From the bridgehead, the orders issued to 13th and 19th corps said, aggressive reconnaissance was to be carried out. Orders like that when they reach junior field commanders facing an objective such as Berlin certainly would be interpreted as a green light to enter Berlin, if possible.

But on April 15th, Gen. Omar N. Bradley, 12th army group commander, got new orders. Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, Ninth army commander, was with him at the time.

Those new orders which came from Shafel said that the Ninth should not cross the Elbe, except for the bridgehead the 33rd division already held. The orders left no room for loose interpretation.

At that time one competent American commander estimated that 10 days' hard fighting would put the Ninth inside the city limits of Berlin.

No official or authorized explanation of the change in orders ever was issued.

## Demobilization Plans Revealed By Army Leaders

### Many in Europe To Get Home on Way to Pacific

WASHINGTON, May 5 (UP) — The U. S. army will be reduced from the present strength of 8,300,000 men to 6,968,000 within a year, the war department revealed today in announcing its redeployment plan.

Selective service calls will continue after V-E day at a level above that needed for replacement in order to make possible the release of more men who have served long and arduously overseas, the announcement said.

**Many Due for Release**

About 1,300,000 men will be eligible for release on the basis of long service and combat duty overseas, the war department said. About half of these are now in the European theater, about one-third in the Pacific, and the balance in the United States on rotation after long tours overseas.

Discharges for such causes as sickness, wounds, and age will continue simultaneously so that it is expected a total of about 2,000,000 men will be released from the army during the 12 months following V-E day.

About two-thirds of the combat units transferred from Europe to the Pacific will come through the United States and members of these units will have furloughs, the announcement said. It did not give the length of furloughs in prospect but it was learned they would extend up to 30 days.

The war department said that while first priority will be given See DEMOBILIZATION ... Pg. 7

## Quisling Urges Norwegians to Fight Bolshevism

LONDON, May 5 (UP) — Radio Oslo said today that Major Vidkun Quisling, head of the German-controlled Norwegian government has announced that his regime will carry on to prevent Norway from becoming a battlefield.

The Oslo broadcast said Quisling appealed for support of all Norwegians and asserted his government will continue to collaborate with German military authorities to "save" the Norwegian people from "bolshevism."

Earlier the Nazi-controlled Scandinavian telegraph bureau reported that Quisling had been overthrown and that the German garrison estimated at 250,000 men might give up at any time.

## 300 B-29s Batter Jap Suicide Bases On Home Islands

GUAM, May 5 (UP) — Some 300 U. S. Superforts today smashed back at the Japanese homeland in a triple attack against bases of enemy suicide planes and ships which sunk five American light surface units in the costliest air and sea battle of the Okinawa campaign.

The American ships were sunk and several others damaged in a futile but bloody attack yesterday by Jap ships and planes shortly after some 600 Japanese troops attempted four amphibious landings on Okinawa behind U. S. lines.

The suicide attacks cost the enemy more than 54 planes, 15 suicide boats and more than 300 soldiers whose bodies were strewn along the beaches and in the waters off the east and west coasts.

**Kyushu Airfields Hit**

For the first time in Superfort history the B29s hit Japan proper three times in one day, with a total of 17 airfields on Kyushu under attack.

The latest strike was carried out late this afternoon against Chiran, Ibusaki and Kanoya airfields on Kyushu by some 50 B-29s. Earlier between 150 and 200 of the big bombers attacked the Hiro aircraft plant, five miles east of the great Kuré naval base on southern Honshu. From 25 to 50 Superforts in an early-morning raid hit Oita and Tachigai airfields on Kyushu. Superfort crews on all missions bombed visually from medium altitude.

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## Gunman Indicted For Officer's Death

VALE, Ore., May 5 (UP) — Indictment of Kenneth Bailey, 26, on charges of first degree murder in the gun battle killing of Sgt. Ted Chambers of the Oregon state police was returned here late yesterday.

Chambers, formerly of La Grande, was killed and two other officers were wounded in a gun battle last Sunday at Weiser, Idaho. Bailey was wounded and his partner, Ronald Duffy, 22, was killed while attempting to escape across a field after the shooting.

Bailey, who reportedly began his crime career at the age of 13, was wanted by Idaho state police for disarming two officers at Nampa, the day before the gun battle, when caught stealing gasoline.

## La Grande Soldier Killed in Italy

Mrs. Hazel Evans Murchison has been notified that her husband, George Murchison was killed while on combat duty with the armed forces in Italy. No details were given.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Murchison of La Grande, and leaves 12 brothers and sisters.

Murchison has been in the army two years, had been overseas since January of this year. Prior to entering the army he was in the forest service, stationed at the Summit ranger station.



RED FLAG FLIES OVER REICHTAG—The Soviet armies achieved the greatest objective of their famous drive into Germany when they planted their hammer and sickle emblem atop the Reichtag, former seat of the German government in Berlin. The picture above shows the Russian flag flying proudly over the building, marking victory.

## Gradual Easing Of Lumber Curbs Planned by WPB

### Many in Europe To Get Home on Way to Pacific

PORTLAND, May 5 (UP) — National WPB lumber administrator J. Philip Boyd said today civilian controls on lumber will be eased gradually in the next few months but the industry still faces a major production problem in Pacific war demands.

The goal is to remove all civilian controls by the end of September, Boyd said, but price ceilings will continue until the Japanese war is completed.

"Now that the war in Europe is ending, government will provide the lumber industry with all the tools it needs, including equipment, tires and manpower," Boyd said. "More than any other industries, lumber and textiles must work even harder in the shift of armies into the Pacific, and I can say that both will be the 'fair haired boys.'"

Boyd said the lumber industry is eager to carry on the war and still assist in prompt reconversion to permit civilian construction. He added that an orderly lifting of civilian controls while keeping strict supervision over war demands would make it easier to resume competitive peace time production when the war ends.

Boyd said military leaders estimated that 75 per cent of the European war equipment can be created and redeployed to the Pacific in the next six months.

**Heavy Demands Remain**

"The lumber industry faces increased demands from the army and navy, a relatively small cut-back in the military program, extremely heavy demand for domestic production, legitimate demand for reconversion, the desire of everybody to build a house or remodel, and emergency demands for foreign uses — adding up a See GRADUAL ... Page 7

## Lee Miller Goes Ashore as Aussies Invade Borneo

"Swosh!" and a Jap shell welcomes Lee G. Miller to Borneo.

Miller makes a running dive into oily vegetation and stays there while Japs plunk shells around him.

Miller was among the first to set foot—and lie flat—on Borneo. Big news is breaking on that big island right now. Miller is on the scene, in the midst of the smoke, the haze and the shells, to tell you fresh, crisp, thrilling details of the fight.

His story appears on page 8.

## Baseball Results

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
First game—	R. H. E.
Brooklyn	10 11 1
Philadelphia	1 5 5
Davis and Owen; Schanz, Karl, Ripple, Chetkovich and Peacock, Seminick.	
First game—	
Boston	5 13 2
New York	15 11 0
Tobin, Hutchings, Cozart, Fette, Cardoni and Masi; Feldman, Adams and Lombardi.	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
New York	7 11 0
Boston	3 5 0
Duldo and M. Garbark; Cecil, Terry, Barrett and R. Garbark.	
Cleveland	2 6 0
Chicago	3 7 2
Smith, Kileman, Henry, Reynolds and Ruszkowski; Lee and Tresh.	

## Music Week Observance Opens With Sacred Concert Tomorrow

Opening the official observance of National music week in La Grande, the combined choirs and soloists of the Latter Day Saints, Methodist and Presbyterian churches will appear tomorrow afternoon in a sacred concert in the First Methodist church. It will begin at 4 o'clock.

In connection with the week's observance, under the auspices of the Neighborhood club, and with concerts Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, T. H. Gaither, president of the La Grande city commission, issued a proclamation urging the people of the community to cooperate in the occasion "a notable and constructive one in the advancement of the art of music and the promotion of its enjoyment," and pointing out that music is a vital factor in maintaining wartime morale.

## Central School Singers Are Hit in Concert Program

An outstanding musical program was enjoyed by an audience of more than 500 persons when Larry Brunette, music instructor at Central school last night presented his students in a musical at the high school auditorium.

On the program were the La Grandoliers, a mixed choral group, The Rancheros, a boys' group in western attire, and the Modernettes, girls dressed in pastel formal dresses with earrings and glittering throat ornaments.

A highlight of the event was a solo by Carol Nichols, 14-year-old eighth grade student, who has had only three months voice training. Her number was "A Bird Sang in the Rain," by Wood.

Other soloists were Jean Hoover, Donna Mae Dalstrom and Margaret Greene, all 13-year-old eighth grade students, Nancy Lamb, 12, a seventh grader, and Marlene Roe and Donald Bull, 11-year-old sixth grade students.

Outstanding selections presented by the La Grandoliers were "Praise Be to Thee" by Palestrina, "Play to Me Gypsy" popular, Smart's "The Lord Is My Shepherd" and "Hail" finale from light opera, Tossadors.

Accompanists were Dorothy Hart and Phyllis McLaughlin.

## Jap Remnants in Burma in Flight

CALCUTTA, May 5 (UP) — The remnants of Japanese forces in virtually liberated Burma were reported fleeing eastward from the Irrawaddy toward the Thailand today with allied troops in rapid pursuit.

At the same time other allied forces were mopping up isolated Japanese pockets, trapped in the area between the Irrawaddy and the west coast of Burma.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten in an order of the day on the capture of Rangoon, capital of Burma, estimated that the Japanese suffered 250,000 casualties, of which 90,000 were dead, in the Burma campaign.

The southeast Asia command paid tribute to the work of American and Royal Air forces and told his troops:

"You have won the race for Rangoon and have beaten the monsoon as well as the Japanese. The fall of the capital 10 days before the rains and storms will be upon you, brings to an end the battle of Burma, for although isolated pockets of the enemy remain their doom is now sealed."

## Victory Garden Contest to Be Sponsored by Local Lions Club

In response to the appeal of Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard for a nationwide increase in victory gardening this year the La Grande Lions club pledged at a directors' meeting last night to do all in its power to stimulate local interest through a prize contest for outstanding achievements.

Jeane Rosenbaum, chairman of the club's special agricultural committee, announced that members will provide substantial merchandise prizes through their businesses, assisted by the club.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

First prize for best family home garden, Loree's building service offers \$15 credit toward home construction or repair.

Second prize for best family home garden, Lions club, year's membership in U. S. AAA Oregon state motor association, value \$15.

First prize for best organiza-

## Soviet Reveals Detention of 16 Emissaries to Moscow For Diversionist Activities

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5 (UP) — Big three talks on the long-deadlocked Polish issue were broken off today on disclosure that 16 Polish Democratic leaders have been arrested by the Red army.

News of the arrests was revealed by Soviet Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov last night in a long and stormy conference with Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr., and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. Molotov was said to have brushed off repeated demands by his two conferees for further information.

Molotov said simply that the 16 Polish leaders, who disappeared more than a month ago after starting talks with Soviet officials on reorganization of the Warsaw government, were arrested on charges of diversionist activities against the Red army. Pressed by Eden and Stettinius, he said further details would be brought out at the trials.

Eden and Stettinius disclosed the arrests publicly in parallel statements.

The revelation torpedoed the Polish discussions here which were formally suspended by the British and Americans until Molotov provides them with further information on the incident.

It also was feared that it would have serious repercussions upon the work of the whole United Nations conference.

The Anglo-Americans had been trying vainly for weeks to pry an answer out of Moscow as to what had happened to the Polish leaders who had gone from interior Poland to confer with Soviet authorities in Moscow.

Radio Moscow said today, however, that the 16 Poles had been arrested by Red army authorities on charges of operating an illegal radio in the rear of Russian forces.

The sudden development came after the big three had reached a wide area of agreement on amendments to be submitted to the Dumbarton Oaks charter.

**Agree on Amendments**

However, the Polish development, coming on the eve of Molotov's departure from the conference is expected to affect gravely the attitude and opinion of delegates to the conference, particularly those who already See SECURITY ... Page 7

## Hannegan Faces G.O.P. Opposition To Cabinet Post

WASHINGTON, May 5 (UP) — Hints were raised today that charges of political corruption may be leveled at Democratic national chairman Robert E. Hannegan by a group of Republicans seeking to block his confirmation as postmaster general of the U. S.

A fight is definitely shaping up, spearheaded by a number of GOP senators who fear Hannegan will use his job to organize for President Truman as well as well-gear political machine as the one that four times delivered the presidency to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The fight against Hannegan is expected to start out as something of a family battle. Hannegan is from Missouri and he was nominated by Missouri-born President Truman.

Missouri's Republican senator, Forrest C. Donnell, is slated to fire the opening gun when the senate meets on the nomination on Monday. Missouri's Democratic senator, Frank Briggs, is expected to be on hand to reply.

Donnell reportedly will move that the nomination be recommitted to the post office committee for hearings on "certain matters, possibly indicating corruption" in connection with Hannegan's political record.

## Russians Capture Big Baltic Port

LONDON, May 5 (UP) — Russian troops have captured the by-passed Baltic port of Swinemuende, Marshal Stalin announced in an order of the day today.

Elements of the Second White Russian army, which captured Peenemuende, took 11,700 prisoners in that area and on the Baltic islands, the communique said.

Other Soviet troops advancing southwest of Brandenburg, 30 miles west of Berlin, seized several German towns, including Burg and Rossiau, and took 2,000 prisoners.

## Former La Grande Soldier Killed

Word has been received in La Grande of the death of Cpl. George John Evans, U. S. marine corps, formerly of this city. He was wounded in action on Iwo Jima on March 26 and died later as the result of his wounds.

He was born at Roundup, Mont., was 26 years old and the husband of the former Mildred Pinkley, of Enterprise.

Evans attended Eastern Oregon college while living here.

## Child Burns to Death

TILLAMOOK, Ore., May 5 (UP) — Four-year-old Lynn Robert Van Winkle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Winkle, died today from burns received when his night-clothing caught fire while he played with matches and candles.