

V-E Day Decree Expected Tuesday

La Grande Evening Observer

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LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Breslau Is Taken by Red Army

LONDON, May 7 (UP)—Marshal Stalin announced tonight that Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army had captured long-besieged Breslau, capital of Silesia and main industrial city of eastern Germany.

The remnants of the Breslau garrison surrendered, and more than 40,000 prisoners were counted by 7 p.m., Stalin reported in an order of the day broadcast from Moscow.

Breslau had been isolated since early in the year when the great Russian offensive that began at the Vistula swept far beyond it.

The capture of Breslau, a city with 600,000 inhabitants before the war, was announced a few hours after a German broadcast reported the surrender of all remaining German forces in Europe.

"Troops of the First Ukrainian front, as a result of a prolonged siege, today captured the town and fortress of Breslau," Stalin said.

"The garrison defending the town, headed by the commander of the fortress, Infantry General Von Knikow, and his staff ceased resistance, laid down their arms and surrendered."

A Moscow communique said the First White Russian army reached the Elbe north and south-east of Magdeburg, capturing Zerbst and several other towns.

The Fourth Ukrainian army in Czechoslovakia captured several towns and villages, the communique said.

Russians Seek Positive Evidence Of Hitler's Death

LONDON, May 7 (UP)—Russian conquerors of Berlin still are searching for material evidence to confirm or disprove Nazi reports of Adolf Hitler's death, the communist party organ Pravda said in Moscow today.

Tacit Soviet admission that the mystery of Hitler had not been solved came as the Nazi radio at Prague said propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, Nazi party chief Martin Bormann and other German officials died in the battle of Berlin.

The British press association's correspondent, E. C. Stackpole, said he learned in London that the bodies of Goebbels, his wife and their children had been found in Berlin. He added that they died from poison.

"No body of Hitler or Goering has yet been recovered," he said. "They may have escaped or have been burnt beyond recognition."

"We don't accept anybody's word, and are investigating and demanding material evidence that Corporal Shuckelgruber hasn't been turned into a vampire," Leonid Leonov wrote in Pravda. A Berlin dispatch to the army organ Red Star said the bodies of many leading Nazi war criminals, SS men and members of the army headquarters staff had been found in the courtyard of the chancellery.

All had committed suicide as the Russians closed in, Red Star said. No names were mentioned in the dispatch.

County War Bond Campaign to Be Laid Wednesday

Union county's effort in the all important seventh war loan drive will be organized for an all-out campaign Wednesday night, May 8, when members of the war finance committees from all sections of the county meet at 8 o'clock in the city hall chambers.

Final organization plans will be made, quotas assigned and instructions, as issued by the treasury department, outlined. W. C. Perkins, county chairman, announced.

He urged every member of the committee to be on hand, declaring that with the eve of victory at hand in Europe, success of the drive will bring closer the conclusion of the entire war effort and victory in the Pacific.



ONE MILLION GERMAN TROOPS SURRENDER TO MARSHAL MONTGOMERY—Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery (right) reads over surrender agreement as German officers wait for him to sign document which guaranteed unconditional surrender of all enemy forces—more than one million troops—in Denmark, Holland and northwest Germany. German delegates (seated) are, left to right, Rear Admiral Wagner, of Admiral Von Friedberg's staff officers; and Admiral Von Friedberg, commander in chief of German navy.—Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

Sen. Zurcher Tells Lions of Building, School Proposals

State Senator C. H. Zurcher of Enterprise was the speaker at the Lions club luncheon meeting today in the Stein Cafe banquet room.

He discussed two of the bills that will appear on the ballot at the special election in June, the proposed tax levy for expansion of the state's higher education plant, buildings and equipment, to be distributed among the various state institutions at the discretion of the state board of control.

The second bill he spoke about was the proposed 2-cent cigarette tax to support of the state school systems.

The club voted to submit to the board of directors the proposition of sending a local boy to the annual Beaver Boys State.

President H. J. Nelson appointed the following members to the nominating committee: S. H. Welmer, chairman; C. M. Sherrill, Guy L. Gregory, Jesse Rosenbaum, A. K. Parker, F. R. Milton and Forrest Zirkle.

Pic. Forrest Dial, La Grande youth now in the U.S. Marines, spoke briefly on his experiences in the battle of Iwo Jima, and on the aircraft carrier Saratoga.

Guests were C. L. Zurcher, of Portland, Sen. C. H. Zurcher, of Enterprise, and Forrest Dial.

48-Hour Week, Labor Freeze to Be Ended Soon

WASHINGTON, May 7 (UP)—Soon after V-E day the 48-hour week will be suspended in plants and areas where the labor market has "loosened up," it was learned today from the war manpower commission.

At the same time WMC will probably lift controls on workers who are "frozen" to their present jobs. Already such controls have been lifted on women workers in northern Indiana and other scattered areas throughout the country.

It is expected that within the next six months 1,500,000 war workers will be forced out of war jobs because of cut-backs in war production programs. During the same time WMC anticipates 900,000 war veterans will join the labor force.

To meet this situation the United States employment service, now operating under WMC, is expanding its number of offices from 1,397 to 2,013 to meet the job needs of returning servicemen and unemployed workers.

Junior Chamber to Meet Tuesday Night

Members of La Grande junior chamber of commerce will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Stein Coffee Shop banquet room, for the regular meeting. Ron Walk is program chairman.

Wayne Murphy has been selected by the directors as secretary of the organization to succeed Howard Fisk who has been transferred to Coquille to serve there with the state police.

Music Week Observance is Opened With Sacred Concert

The sacred music concert of National Music week was presented yesterday afternoon by combined churches of La Grande at the First Methodist church, under the supervision of Nephi Combs.

Featured were the combined choruses of the First Presbyterian, First Methodist and Latter Day Saints churches with two numbers, "Send Out Thy Light," by Gounod and "Oh Morn of Beauty," by Sibelius. Dr. Henry Ehlers was director of the chorus and Mrs. Harvey Carter was accompanist.

Invocation was given by Rev. Irvin S. Motz and benediction by Rev. Floyd E. White. Beverly Decker played the organ prelude and Mrs. William Hamilton the postlude.

Soloists were Mrs. Ivan French, Mrs. Edith Worley, and Miss Shirley Miles. Directing the Methodist church choir was Mrs. Elmer Hansen, the Presbyterian, Dr. Ehlers, and the LDS choir, Nephi Combs.

Accompanists were Mrs. Nephi Combs, Miss Florina Beeson, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Hamilton. Second event of the official observance of music week under the auspices of the Neighborhood club will take place tomorrow night when Eastern Oregon college musicians and vocalists will be presented in a concert at 8 p.m., in the college auditorium under the direction of Dr. Henry Ehlers.

Amendments Approved It was learned that Soviet Russia has given its approval to two amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks plan which the other members of the big four already had approved. The revisions would give the assembly of the proposed world organization authority to recommend removal of conditions which might lead to See DENMARK . . . Page 5

Four Drown When Thrown From Boat

SPOKANE, Wash., May 7 (UP)—Two Ohio soldiers and their wives were drowned in Liberty lake near here late yesterday when they were thrown from their speedboat as it crashed into a wave of its own wake.

The dead are Pvt. Charles E. Neidhard, 26, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and his wife, Betty Lorraine, 22, and Pfc. Clarence O'Brien, 25, of Cleveland, Ohio, and his wife, Geraldine, 30.

Witnesses told state patrol officers that the couples were seated in the rear end of a 16-foot speedboat and were circling the calm bay at high speed some 300 feet from shore when the boat hit a wave and threw them about 20 feet.

Portal-to-Portal Mine Pay Upheld

WASHINGTON, May 7 (UP)—The supreme court ruled today that the federal wage-hour law requires portal-to-portal travel-time wages.

The court made the ruling in a 5 to 4 decision in the case of the Jewell Ridge Coal Corp., operator of two bituminous mines in southwest Virginia. The firm had appealed from a decision of the fourth circuit court of appeals holding that coal miners must be paid portal-to-portal wages.

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Jap Shipping Battered by Navy Planes

GUAM, May 7 (UP)—The wreckage of more than 20 enemy merchant ships remained today as evidence of a daring strike by U. S. navy land-based planes on perhaps Japan's most guarded sea lanes.

The ships, ranging from large oilers to small cargo vessels, were blasted by the navy bombers in low level sweeps over Taushima and Korea Straits, between Korea and Kyushu, and in the Yellow Sea off western Korea.

Kyushu Bombed A force of nearly 50 Superfortresses struck near the same area today in a new attack on the Japanese suicide plane bases on Kyushu. The targets were the airfields at Kanoya, Tsuchi, Oita and Usa. Early reports said good results were obtained in the raids.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced that heavy units of the U. S. Pacific fleet, in conjunction with carrier planes and land-based aircraft, continued the bombardment of Okinawa, although his communique gave no further report of the 10th army drive on Naha, capital of the island.

Jap Airtack Repulsed A front dispatch disclosed, however, that three thousand Japanese were killed Thursday See U. S. NAVY . . . Page 5

Stockman to Name Youths to Army, Navy Academies

Congressman Lowell Stockman announced today that he will have three vacancies in the United States military academy at West Point, N. Y., and two to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., to fill for the classes beginning July 1, 1946.

Candidates for both academies must be between 17 and 21 years of age, and may be high school seniors or graduates or college students.

Rep. Stockman said the civil service commission expects to hold a competitive examination July 28, next, to aid in the selection of nominees for the academies. Applicants must be residents of the second congressional district of Oregon and in perfect physical condition.

Boys who are interested and qualified should write immediately to Congressman Lowell Stockman, house office building, Washington, D. C., for additional information and to be admitted to the examination.

4,000,000 Deaths Laid to German Atrocity Prison

MOSCOW, May 7 (UP)—The Russian state atrocity commission charged in an official report today that more than 4,000,000 allied nationals were murdered by the Nazis in the notorious Oswiecim prison camp in Polish Silesia.

The report, covering the findings of an exhaustive investigation by the commission, asserted that the Oswiecim camp was directed personally by Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler and described it as nazidom's largest "murder plant."

Photographs published in the official communist party organ Pravda today showed heaps of mutilated bodies found in Oswiecim, where the Nazis were said to have "processed" roughly 1,000,000 victims annually since 1939.

The commission also charged that Himmler selected Germany's leading biologists, bio-chemists and physicists to conduct "scientific experiments" on the live bodies of Jewish prisoners.

Several surviving scientists who were inmates of the camp and were compelled to take part in some of these experiments said x-ray sterilization and castration techniques were tested on the helpless prisoners.

Former Austrian Premier Liberated

ROME, May 7 (UP)—Kurt Schuschnigg, former premier of Austria, has been liberated from a German concentration camp it was disclosed today.

Schuschnigg's wife also was rescued with him, along with former French Premier Leon Blum and Mme. Blum.

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British Reveal Victory Date As Germans Announce Surrender; White House Is Mum On Plans

By United Press

The British ministry of information in London today announced that tomorrow "will be treated as victory in Europe day."

The British announcement said Prime Minister Churchill will broadcast at 3 p.m. double British summer time (6 a.m. PWT).

The test of the ministry of information announcement: "It is understood that in accordance with arrangements between the three great powers an official announcement will be broadcast by prime minister at 3 p.m. tomorrow, the eighth of May."

"In view of this fact tomorrow, Tuesday, will be treated as victory in Europe day and will be regarded as a holiday. The following Wednesday, May 9, will also be a holiday."

The announcement said King George will broadcast at noon Pacific time.

German Surrender Told Earlier the German radio at Flensburg had broadcast that Admiral Karl Doenitz had surrendered all the remaining German forces in Europe. The speaker on the Flensburg radio identified himself as Count Ludwig Schwerin von Krosigk, German foreign minister.

After Edward Kennedy of the Associated Press had sent a dispatch from Reims, France, saying that Germany had surrendered unconditionally to the western allies and Russia, allied supreme headquarters in Paris issued a statement which did not deny the AP story. The statement said:

"SHAEF authorizes correspondents at 4:45 p.m., Paris time, (7:45 a.m. PWT) to state that SHAEF has made nowhere any official statement for publication up to that hour concerning complete surrender of all German forces in Europe and no story to that effect is authorized."

Supreme headquarters later announced that filing facilities for the Associated Press had been suspended in the European theater of operations. AP headquarters in New York had no immediate statement to make on either the suspension or the Reims dispatch. They said, however, that they still were receiving news from London, but not from Paris or any continental point.

Truman Waits on Others In Washington, President Truman issued this statement: "I have agreed with the London and Moscow governments that I will make no statement with reference to the surrender of the enemy forces in Europe or elsewhere until a simultaneous statement can be made by the three governments."

"Until then there is nothing I can or will say to you."

Jonathan Daniels, Mr. Truman's press secretary, said the White House had no comment on the British ministry of information statement.

CBS Correspondent Edward Murrow broadcast from London that President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill had been prepared to broadcast the official news of the German surrender at 6 a.m. PWT, but that they were delayed because Premier Stalin, who was to speak at the same time, was not ready. Murrow said the Truman-Churchill statement had been postponed indefinitely pending word from Moscow that Premier Stalin is ready with his statement.

Surrender Announced A speaker identified as German Foreign Minister Count Ludwig Schwerin von Krosigk announced over the Flensburg radio at 2:00 p.m. (5:09 a.m. PWT) that the high command of the German armed forces had surrendered unconditionally all "fighting German" See V-E DAY . . . Page 5

Spain, Portugal Break Relations With Germany MADRID, May 7 (UP)—Spain has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, it was announced today.

Official announcement of the Spanish break with Germany followed by 24 hours Portugal's rupture with the beaten Nazi government.

LISBON, May 7 (UP)—Portugal withdrew its recognition of the German government last night and took custody of all German properties, including the consulate.

An announcement said the properties will be held until an inter-allied commission or any other government that is recognized by the allied nations is set up in Germany.

The announcement said the action was taken because a central government in Germany no longer existed.

By United Press The Tokyo press called today See SPAIN . . . Page 5

Prized Prisoners of Nazis Are On Way Home After Liberation

PARIS, May 7 (UP)—Some of Germany's most prized prisoners were on their way home today.

First Lt. John G. Winant, jr., son of the American ambassador to Britain, was among a batch of "name" prisoners who reached the 103rd division command post Saturday after an 85-mile drive in German cars under Swiss protection. Winant, a Flying Fortress pilot, was shot down over Germany Oct. 10, 1943.

Others in the party were Gen. Tadeusz Komorowski, better known as Gen. Bor, who led the Warsaw uprising; Capt. John. Robinson, brother of

Queen Elizabeth of England; 1st Lt. Viscount Lascelles, nephew of King George VII; 1st Lt. Michael Alexander, a relative of Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander; and 1st Lt. Felix Dehamel, a relative of Prime Minister Churchill.

Another party, including former French premier Edouard Daladier and Paul Reynaud, was liberated after a brief, but bitter battle for the castle where they were held. With them were Gen. Maurice Gamelin, commander in chief of the allied armies during the 1940 debacle, tennis star Jean Borotra, and Gen. Maxime Weygand, former French com-

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Weather Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m. May 7. Temperature: Maximum 74 Minimum 43 Forecast: Clear tonight and Tuesday