

Prague Taken From Defiant Nazis

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.
Temperature:
Maximum 77
Minimum 41
Forecast — Partly cloudy to night and Thursday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

La Grande Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallove Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 9, 1945

FIVE CENTS

German Plea for Time Is Ignored As Unconditional Surrender Pact Is Signed

MARSHAL ZHUKOV'S HEADQUARTERS, Berlin, May 9 (UP) — The final seal was set on the Wehrmacht's defeat and humiliation before the world when Field Marshal Keitel, titular head of the once proud Oberkommando Der Wehrmacht was brought to Marshal Zhukov's headquarters in the devastated German capital early this morning and signed the formal ratification of Germany's unconditional surrender.

Troops In Italy Begin Moving to Japan War Zone

ROME, May 9 (UPI)—Gen. Joseph T. McNarney revealed today that the allies already have begun shipping combat and service troops from Italy directly to the Pacific for the war against Japan.

McNarney, deputy supreme commander in the Mediterranean theater, said other troops will be sent from Italy to the Pacific by way of the United States.

It generally was known that engineering and other technical troops, as well as air force personnel, have been embarking for the Pacific for several weeks, but McNarney's speech was the first confirmation that combat troops are on the way.

The return to civilian life for the majority of troops in Italy will come only after Japan has been defeated, he said. All troops in the European and Mediterranean theaters had been divided into groups for future disposition, he said.

"The first group will consist of men to be retained overseas and required for occupation," he said. "In the second group will come combat and service troops who will be transferred to active theaters in the Far East."

"Some in this group will go directly from Italy to the Pacific. Some already have gone. Others will go by way of the United States."

Large Amount Of Clothing Collected

Residents of La Grande and other Union county communities contributed 13,730 pounds of wearable clothing and shoes to the United National clothing campaign for people of the war devastated areas.

This was announced today by L. H. Larson and A. B. Olson, co-chairmen, respectively for the Rotary and Lions clubs in sponsorship of the campaign.

Larson expressed appreciation for the work of Mrs. Lucie Bell and members of various women's organizations who assisted in sorting and packing the contributions for shipment. He said without their assistance the campaign would have been only partially successful.

County Committee Will Meet Tonight to Map War Bond Drive

Plans for vigorous prosecution of the 7th war loan campaign in Union county will be laid tonight when members of the county war finance committee meet at 8 o'clock in the city commission chambers in the city hall.

While sales for the seventh loan campaign have been under way through special sales projects, general solicitation will be initiated after tonight's meeting.

W. C. Perkins, county war finance committee chairman, urged that every committee member in the county attend tonight's meeting to assist in formulating plans through which the county may reach its large quota without undue delay.

A report issued this week by the Oregon War finance committee shows Union county stands seventh among the 45 counties of the state in point of E bonds sold and in the same position in point of total sales of bonds of the seventh loan between April 9 and 30.

This county is credited with E bond sales of \$67,037, or 9.2 per cent of a quota of 731,000, and with an overall sales record of \$35,020, or 3.3 per cent of the county's entire quota of \$964,000.

Ted R. Gumble, national director of the war finance division of the treasury department, yesterday issued the following statement in Washington, in connection with the collapse of Germany and

Invasion Of Japan Speeded

By United Press

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz disclosed today that joint chiefs of staff are mapping plans for the invasion of Japan and promised an immediate increase of American air assaults on the enemy's homeland.

Nimitz made the statement to a press conference as adverse weather slowed down the drive on southern Okinawa and Australian and Dutch troops closed in on two rich oil fields on Tarkan island east of Borneo.

Huge Force Planned
Washington sources said a total force of 10,000,000 men is expected to be used against the Japanese.

He said Okinawa, at the threshold of the Japanese homeland, was the most important island yet invaded by the American forces. Despite losses to Japanese suicide planes, he said the campaign was going according to plan.

Five American divisions are hammering at Japanese defenses across the southern end of the island a mile north of the capital, Naha.

On Tarkan the allied invasion forces tightened a pincers on Pannosian oil field east of Tarkan town and closed in on Bjoetta oil field three miles north of the captured Tarkan airdrome.

Drive Japs Into Hills
American troops pushed out from liberated Davao on Mindanao island in the Philippines were driving the Japanese back into the hills.

Philippines-based aerial forces continued widespread attacks through the southwest Pacific and into the central Pacific. More than 300 tons of bombs were dropped on factories and rail lines on Formosa.

Navy patrol bombers from the Okinawa area sank 14,000 tons of shipping and damaged 3,500 in a series of attacks in Korean coastal waters Monday.

American forces on northern Luzon continued gains toward Balet Pass, gateway to Cagayan valley where most of Japan's remaining forces on the island are concentrated.

Chinese forces killed more than 3,000 Japanese forces in a battle west of Hsiangshakow in Honan province. Other Chinese troops in western Honan province lifted the siege of Wukang and recaptured Chulowpu, about six miles north of Paoching.

Japan Says German Surrender Will Not Change War Plans

By United Press

Japan announced today that it will keep fighting as hard as ever in spite of Germany's surrender.

While it expressed "deep regret" over Germany's surrender, the official statement said the "sudden change of the war situation in Europe will not bring the slightest change in the war objective of the imperial government of Japan."

"Together with our allied nations in greater east Asia," the statement added, "the imperial government of Japan will devote her total effort toward the complete destruction of the unjust ambition of the United States and Britain, which are attempting to trample down the GEA on behalf of their own principles and exploitations, and thereby it expects to firmly maintain the security of the sea."

Baseball Results

NATIONAL LEAGUE		
St. Louis	4	10 1
Brooklyn	6	11 1
Brechen	Byerly and Rice	
Lombardi and Owen.		
AMERICAN LEAGUE		
New York	1	7 1
Detroit	4	8 0
Gettel, Zuber and Garbark		
Trout and Swift.		
Philadelphia	4	7 3
Chicago	6	10 1
Black and Hayes; Lee and Tresh.		



NAZI LEADERS CAPTURED—(Left) Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering and Marshal Albert Kesselring, two of the leaders of the fallen Nazi regime in Germany, who were revealed today to have fallen into the hands of the American Seventh army.

'Army Discloses Plans for Moving Men from Europe

WASHINGTON, May 9 (UP)—The army disclosed today that it plans to withdraw some 3,100,000 American troops from Europe by water and air at a rate of 250,000 to 500,000 monthly.

Soldiers with long service records will learn details tomorrow of the point system under which 1,300,000 of them will be chosen for discharge during the next 12 months.

A total of 2,000,000 men are to be dropped from army rolls within a year but the remaining 700,000 will be discharged for sickness, wounds or age.

About half the men discharged will be from the European theater, one-third from the Pacific and the balance from among men in the United States returned from overseas duty.

Rotarians Hear Of High School Industry Classes

Activities of the trades and industries department of the La Grande high school were described to members of the La Grande Rotary club today noon by Lee Powell, instructor, and members of his classes.

Powell divided instruction into three phases, two of which, trades and agriculture, are available at the school. Effort is being made to establish the third phase of vocational training, distributive education.

Francis Rohan, Leland Johnson and William Elam, all enrolled in the department on a part-time, cooperative basis in which their instruction is supplemented by work in up-town business houses, discussed the various types of activities in which they are engaged.

Club visitors were Carl Helm, Homer Love and J. H. Pearce. Lynn Larson gave a report on the clothing drive in which he announced that nearly seven tons of clothing had been collected in this area and shipped.

Trave Lumsden presided.

Russians Remain Mum on Poles

LONDON, May 9 (UP)—Minister of State Richard K. Law told commons today that the Russian government has given no further information about 16 missing Polish politicians since their arrest was announced last week.

Law said the British charge d'affaires in Moscow has been directed to seek further information.

In answer to a direct question, Law failed to give assurance that the Polish leaders are still alive. He said the British deeply regret the situation and realize the full significance of the facts "so far as they know them."

Salmon Feed to Be Enjoyed by Elks

A salmon feed for the BPO Elks' No. 433 will be held at 6:30 p. m. Thursday in the lodge temple. Ed Ford is chairman of the event, and the regular session of the lodge will follow.

Former Leaders of Nazis Captured By U.S. 7th Army

LONDON, May 9 (UP)—The Danish Kalundborg radio said today that it learned Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief and German interior minister, is in Sweden. A Stockholm dispatch reported he and other Nazis are in Norway.

PARIS, May 9 (UP)—Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering and Marshal Albert Kesselring, two of the leaders in the fallen Nazi hierarchy, are in the hands of the American Seventh army, supreme headquarters announced today.

Goering said he was condemned to death by Adolf Hitler for suggesting on April 24 that he—Goering—take over the leadership of Germany. Hitler's SS elite guardsmen arrested him, Goering said, but members of his own air force rescued him.

Kesselring had been commander in chief of Germany's western front since early March. He was believed to have taken over from Marshal Karl von Rundstedt—now also in allied hands—after the Germans suffered a series of disastrous reverses in the west.

The first reports of Goering's capture gave no details of his melodramatic report that Hitler condemned him and he was rescued by members of the Luftwaffe he commanded in its heyday.

The whereabouts of Goering had been one of the major mysteries of the collapse of the Nazi command in Germany. A few days before reporting that Adolf Hitler had been killed in battle, the German radio said Goering had been relieved of his air force command because of bad health.

Goering was an ace airman in the first world war and was credited with laying the foundation for and building up the German air force that was the scourge of Europe in the early days of world war II.

Mrs. Hattie Eckley Called by Death

Mrs. Hattie Jane Eckley, 82, one of the oldest of the pioneer settlers of the La Grande district, died today in a local hospital after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Eckley was born in Clark county, Washington, August 15, 1862, and was brought to Union county as an infant by her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William F. Proebstel, and had made her home on the Proebstel ranch in the Fruitdale area most of her life.

She was active in the Blue Mountain grange and the Frances Brown auxiliary to the Sons and Daughters of Union County Pioneers.

She was the mother of Postmaster Victor Eckley, Mood Eckley of Portland, and Winfield Eckley of Tall City, Ind., and the grandmother of Sandra Lou Eckley of La Grande. She also is survived by a brother, Ike Proebstel of Walton, Ariz., and a sister, Mrs. Molly K. Gamble of Los Angeles.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p. m. Friday in the Snodgrass chapel. Rev. Clarence Kopp of the Episcopal church will officiate. Burial will be in the Masonic cemetery beside her husband who died in 1937.

Pan-America Security Pact Holds Interest

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9 (UP)—Western hemisphere delegates to the United Nations conference continued their search today for a way of fitting the Pan-American security system into the world organization without destroying the effectiveness of either.

Departure of Soviet Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov for Moscow indicated that a solution of this latest regional problem was near and confirmed the belief of American officials that the Russians do not plan to object to a U. S. compromise formula presented last night.

There appeared to be general agreement that the western hemisphere should be permitted to settle its own disputes within the framework of the world organization. The U. S. proposed formula was being studied by the big powers and a Latin American subcommittee continued its analysis of the problem today.

The final solution probably will be something less than the absolute autonomy originally asked by five Latin American countries.

A joint amendment by Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals declares the Pan-American system to be compatible with the purposes and objectives of the world organization and "in consequence shall continue functioning autonomously."

Advancements Are Given Members of College Faculty

Changes in the status of numerous members of the faculty of Eastern Oregon college were announced today by the state board of education, including higher status for a number of the educators.

Wilmer E. Baer, business manager of the institution, is given appointment as an instructor in merchandising, and will serve part time in the commerce department.

E. Robert Quinn, assistant professor and coach, Edith B. Darby, associate professor in the training school, and Alvin R. Kaiser, assistant professor of general education, return from sabbatical leave, and Quinn is advanced from assistant to associate professor of physical education.

Joseph R. Gaiser is advanced from associate to full professor of social science; John W. Miller, from associate to full professor of education, and Charles W. Quintance from assistant to professor of biological science. Velma B. Cress, instructor in education, temporary appointment expires; Dorothy Gillanders, instructor in training school, Albert V. Logan, assistant professor of general instruction, and Betty Moulden Ryan, assistant professor of education, are continued on leave.

Kaiser to Enter Home Construction

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9 (UP)—Henry J. Kaiser, wartime shipbuilding genius, celebrated his 63rd birthday today by announcing the formation of a new \$5,000,000 corporation for construction of two-bedroom houses on a mass, nationwide basis, beginning immediately.

The houses will cost between \$4000 and \$5000 and will include not only standard equipment but also stoves, refrigerators, hydraulic dish washers, clothes washers, garbage disposal units and air conditioners.

The financier said that the corporation is ready to start construction of 6,000 houses in complete new community groups to be established in the San Francisco bay area, Los Angeles and Portland. Sub-contractors will be given jobs building another 4,000 soon, and others later.

U-BOAT SURRENDERS

LONDON, May 9 (UP)—The first U-boat to surrender under Germany's capitulation agreement will put into Weymouth harbor on the English coast late today, it was announced.

Enemy Planes Bomb Czech Capital After Surrender Is Signed

LONDON, May 9 (UP)—The Red army, fighting on against outlawed German diehards after the official end of the European war, today captured the Czechoslovak capital of Prague in a pre-dawn attack.

The Prague radio reported that the Germans in defiance of the unconditional surrender agreement, bombed the capital and two other Czechoslovak cities.

Nazis garrisoning the Czechoslovak bastion were the only force of any consequence carrying on after the officially proclaimed cessation of hostilities at 12:01 a. m. today.

Reports from the continent said the garrisons of historic Dunkerque and the last enemy-held pockets at St. Nazaire, La Rochelle and Lorient had given up.

Marshal Stalin announced the capture of Prague. His broadcast order of the day said Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army seized the capital in a tank and infantry attack.

Despite the end of the war 10 hours earlier, the order of the day concluded with the usual formula—"death to the German invaders."

Bombs Hit Capital

The Prague radio reported that German bombs crashed on the Czechoslovak capital and two other cities hours after the official end of the war in Europe. It added that Russian forces had entered Prague and with Czechoslovak patriots cleared the city of German troops.

Paris press dispatches reported that the Germans in Dunkerque, scene of the British evacuation from the continent in 1940, surrendered at 9 a. m. A French communique announced the German capitulations at St. Nazaire, La Rochelle and Lorient.

Bornholm Garrison Quits

Telephone reports from Bornholm by way of Copenhagen said the German resistance on the Danish island off the tip of Sweden cracked during the night, and Russian warships put in after daylight.

The crumbling of the last nests of Nazi resistance, outlawed by the unconditional surrender which made them subject to allied attack of any nature, followed word of the final formalizing of Germany's surrender in Berlin.

German planes began bombing Prague at 1:10 p. m. (3:10 a. m. PWT), the broadcast said, and also bombed Neunburg, 25 miles east of Prague, and Melnik, 18 miles north. The broadcast urged inhabitants to take shelter.

The last German ground resistance in southern Europe had been virtually crushed. In addition to entering Prague, the Russians linked up with the American Third army south of the Danube in Austria.

'Missing' Soldier Is In Hospital

Sgt. Milo J. Goss, jr., of La Grande, who was reported last month to be missing in action in Germany, has advised his parents that he is hospitalized in France with a bullet wound in his arm.

Casualty lists released today by the army list Sgt. Goss as missing, but Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Goss were advised previously of his changed status.

Others in this area included in the casualty lists as wounded and their next of kin, who have been previously notified, are:

Second Lt. Robert C. Spencer (army), son of Mrs. Nellie L. Spencer, Rt. 2, La Grande.
Pfc. Robert R. Buckley (marine corps), husband of Mrs. R. B. Buckley, Moyer apartments, La Grande.
Pfc. Carl O. Stockdale (army), son of Mrs. Anna Stockdale, Enterprise.

Pope Offers Prayer For "Just End" to Warfare In Far East

VATICAN CITY, May (UP)—Pope Pius XII expressed gratitude today for conclusion of the war in Europe and offered a prayer for a "just end" to the "bloody struggle" still under way in the far east.

In a broadcast to the world, he said the European war had left in its wake the greatest "material and moral ruin in the history of mankind."

"Cries of gratitude break forth ardently," he said in hailing the end of hostilities. "They rise from the depth of our hearts toward the Lord father of mercy."

The Pope implored God to bring a quick end to the bloody struggle in the far east. He said the war dead now were telling the survivors:

"May a new and better Europe, a new and better world arise from our bones and our

Midnight Curfew, Racing Ban Are Lifted By Vinson

WASHINGTON, May 9 (UP)—War Mobilization Director Fred M. Vinson today lifted the midnight curfew on amusement places but said restrictions on transportation must continue.

He also revoked, effective at once, the government ban on racing.

Vinson discussed almost every phase of home front activity at a press conference in which he said he is confident the American people will "keep their feet on the ground and not go haywire during the coming months."

Appliances Authorized
Vinson said production of electric refrigerators and washing machines will be started immediately in "moderate" quantities.

Reconversion, he continued, must proceed "vigorously," warned, however, that complete change-over to a civilian economy must await the defeat of Japan.

Vinson also announced that: 1. War plants will continue the 48-hour work week.

2. The little steel wage formula and other stabilization policies will be retained.

3. The administration still favors legislation to put manpower ceilings on employment.

4. Strict manpower controls will continue to be necessary, especially in areas where war production remains at a high peak.

5. There will be an increase soon of 8 to 16 per cent in gasoline supplies available for civilian use. The increase will be distributed primarily to "A" and commercial card holders, with "B" card drivers possibly getting some of it.

President Signs Draft Law Curbing Use of 18-year-olds

WASHINGTON, May 9 (UP)—President Truman today signed with reluctance a draft act extension measure which carries an amendment requiring that 18-year-old inductees be given six months training before being sent into combat.

The president said he signed the legislation only because immediate extension of the selective act is necessary for continuing the war against Japan. The measure extends the act for one year after May 15.

"I am reluctantly giving my approval to this legislation," the president said in a statement. "I do not wish this approval to be interpreted as expressing my concurrence in section two of the bill, which places added restrictions on the war and navy departments in their management of the fighting forces."

The senate added the amendment about training for 18-year-olds to the extension bill despite the strong objections of military leaders. The house concurred in it.

graves, and from the earth where we have been thrown as grains of wheat."

Deploping the chaos of the war, the pontiff said: "The problem now is reconstruction of the world."

The new world, he said, must be based on "respect for human dignity and on the sacred principle of equality of rights for all peoples and all nations, great and small, weak and strong."

The Pope made no reference to the vanquished nations or their objectives, but appealed for peace founded on sound justice and mutual trust, with truth and charity replacing lies and anger.

Only in such a manner can peace be re-established firmly in the face of Europe's "gigantic problems and difficulties," the pontiff said.