

Superforts Block Tokyo Sea Lane

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

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La Grande Evening Observer

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 17, 1945

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Capital Is Shot Up By Flyers

GUAM, May 17 (UP)—The enemy reported today that mine-laying Superfortresses and two-based Mustang fighters attacked Tokyo and its inland sea lanes several hours after 500 B-29s touched off huge fires, visible 150 miles, in industrial Nagoya.

Tokyo said Superfortresses dropped mines in waters near Cape Kamon at the outlet to Tokyo bay. Cape Kamon juts into Uraga strait south of Tokyo, site of Japan's largest naval base.

To Japanese reported the Mustangs, accompanied by two B-29s, flew over Tokyo area for half an hour today and strafed the Fujisawa district, just outside the capital's metropolitan area.

The huge American air armada which attacked Nagoya crashed 375,000 fire bombs weighing 3,500 tons into the southern factory area in 90 minutes before dawn.

"Fire was all over the place," said Sgt. William Foran of Chicago, whose B-29 was over Nagoya at the half-way mark in the attack. "It seemed one big mass of fire."

Other fliers suggested the assault may have been the death blow to Nagoya's sprawling war factories.

The raid was the fourth large-scale blow in a campaign to wipe Nagoya, the enemy's largest aircraft manufacturing center, off the map of Japan. One-half or more of Nagoya well may be in ruins now.

(A 20th air force communiqué issued in Washington today, said not a single American plane was lost to enemy action, although the big bombers went in at low levels. It said anti-aircraft fire was more severe than on Sunday, but Japanese fighters who ventured off the ground were "unaggressive.")

A nine-square-mile area of Nagoya ignited nearly 72 hours earlier still was smoking when the first of the Superfortresses swept over the city today at 3 a.m. Japanese time.

The huge Mitsubishi aircraft plant, largest of its kind in the world, and five other major Japanese war factories lay within the target area, along with less important war works, transportation facilities, warehouses, storage areas, and workers' home industries.

Wallowa Group Is Formed to Boost Election Proposal

Seven citizens of Wallowa county have accepted invitations to serve as a united citizens' committee for Wallowa county, to work for the passage of the state building referendum measure on the June 22 special election ballot.

Members of the committee include Robert Chrisman, chairman; Guy Craig, vice chairman; Robert Stivers, secretary, all of Enterprise; Mrs. Lawton McDaniels and Chilton Marshall of Wallowa; Kermit Estes of Joseph and Melvin Crow of Lostine.

The postwar building program for state higher institutions and other state buildings, authorized in the referendum proposal will provide necessary additions to higher education facilities and for remodeling certain of the out-of-date state institutions for Oregon's wards and will provide a substantial postwar employment program.

The money will come from income tax surpluses, though a property tax vote is technically necessary to make use of the available income tax revenues. No additional property taxes will be levied.

Himmler's Wife, Daughter Found

LONDON, May 17 (UP)—Army authorities in Rome confirmed today that Heinrich Himmler's wife and 15-year-old daughter had been found in a mountain chalet in northern Italy and said they would be treated merely as refugees, not political prisoners.

A Rome dispatch said Frau Margaret Himmler, 51, and her daughter told questioners that they assumed Himmler, Nazi war criminal No. 1, and Gestapo chief, had been killed in Berlin with Adolf Hitler.

"They are all better off dead," Frau Himmler said.

Authorities in Rome treated the two women as "displaced persons" and said they will be sent to a refugee camp.

Japanese Fascists Dissolved

By United Press

The imperial rule assistance association, Japan's totalitarian party, will be disbanded and its member organizations absorbed into the new "peoples volunteer corps," Tokyo reported Thursday in a broadcast recorded by United Press, San Francisco.

Imminent dissolution of the fascist-like association, or "Yokosankai," was announced by Premier Baron Kantaro Suzuki. It is expected to be completed by June 10.

Subsidiary organizations which will be merged into the people's volunteer corps are the Yokusan men's corps, Dai Nippon women's association, Dai Nippon young men and boys association, national commercial service association, and the national agricultural association, a Domei news agency dispatch said.

Home Defense Planned

The peoples' voluntary corps was formed as an emergency wartime organization extending throughout Japanese civil life. It was designed to assist the nation in preparing for the climactic battles ahead.

The premier, who also is president of the Yokosankai, exhorted members of the party "to participate actively in organization of the peoples volunteer corps with all their rich experience and enthusiasm."

The imperial rule assistance association, whose members included some of Japan's most influential friends of nazism and fascism, was formed in 1940 to assist the government to execute the nation's imperial aims.

Controlled By Army

It has been under domination of Japanese military extremists generally credited with instigating the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1941, Japan's biggest industrialists organized a rival group known as the imperial rule assistance political association. The latter organization was dissolved last March, but reappeared shortly afterward under the name of "greater Japan political association."

Practically all of the government's recent appointments have been made from the ranks of the so-called "moderate" greater Japan organization.

Japan Reports Sea Battle Off Malaya

By United Press

Tokyo said today that a British task force had penetrated Malacca strait between Malaya and Sumatra for the first time in nearly three years and engaged Japanese warships.

The task force comprised two cruisers and three destroyers, a Tokyo broadcast said. After a short encounter, it asserted, Japanese units sank one destroyer.

The Japanese units presumably were based at Singapore, southeast of the strait.

Tokyo radio claimed that Japanese air units sank two allied submarines off the eastern coast of Java May 10 and 11. The broadcast was heard by United Press, San Francisco.

Baseball Results

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston at St. Louis, postponed, wet.

New York at Chicago, postponed, cold.

Philadelphia at Detroit, both games postponed, rain.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 7 11 9

Evansville 4 7 1

Partenheimer, Burkhardt and Orde; Andrews, Hutchings, Shaker and Klutz

Pittsburgh 12 15 4

Brooklyn 3 6 3

Strimwich, King and Lopez

Dave; Seals, Webster, B. and W.

Chicago 5 11 6

New York 8 13 14

Phillips, Hansen, Adams and Lombardi

Cincinnati 4 9 2

Philadelphia 2 5 0

Beck and Just; Wyatt and Mancuso

So He Took The \$1,050 And Beat It

NEW YORK, May 17 (UP)—Muriel Wells, 19, Brooklyn, tossed a canvas bag across the room to a co-worker at a loan company office. Catherine Doccen, 21, Queens, missed the catch and the bag went flying out a sixth floor window. The bag, containing \$1,050 in ten and one dollar bills, was picked up by a stranger who beat it before police arrived.

Mrs. Trollinger Resigns Chamber Of Commerce Post

Resignation of Mrs. A. T. Trollinger as secretary of the La Grande chamber of commerce was announced today by Raymond Gray, president of the organization.

Mrs. Trollinger has accepted a position with the California Packing corporation as of this week, but will spend several hours daily at the chamber of commerce until the end of the month. A committee recently appointed is considering applications for the position, Gray said. He expressed regret at the loss of Mrs. Trollinger, who, he said, has performed very capably in the interest of the community and the organization during her connection with it.

Perfect Records Are Made By 44 School Children

Forty-four children in La Grande schools today were revealed to have had perfect attendance records during the past school year.

Listed in an announcement by Superintendent Fred Patton are: La Grande high school—9th grade, Margaret Brown, Edith Chrusoskie, Patricia DeFries, Charlotte Stone; 10th grade, Arlene Gaither; 11th grade, Velva Jean Ridding, Jeanne Bergeron, Florence Morgan.

Ackerman—none.

Central—1st grade, Gary Smith, David Westenskow, Gail Roe; 2nd grade, Norman Lilly; 4th grade, Barbara Probstel; 5th grade, Alice Wilson; 6th grade, John Bennett, Betty Wilhelm; 8th grade, Bill Rachau, Thelma Marquis, Ernest Morgan, Roy Wilhelm.

Greenwood—1st grade, Charles Bauer, Gordon Spencer; 2nd grade, Jerry Driskell, LaVelle West, Donna Butcher; 3rd grade, Harvey McBeth, Keith Hickey; 5th grade, Donna Laucirica, Dale Young; 6th grade, Glenn Gerber.

Riveria—1st grade, Elizabeth Miller; 2nd grade, Orval Miller; 3rd grade, Lester Mortier; 4th grade, Norman Trotter, Robert Becker; 5th grade, Billy Wagner, Lynn Kofford, Eddy David; 6th grade, K. Lynn Sirrine.

Willow—1st grade, Dallas Hilbert; 3rd grade, Johnny Steinbeck; 4th grade, Raymond Marquis, Bobby Marquis.

Japs Recapture Part of Foochow

CHUNGKING, May 17 (UP)—Reinforced Japanese troops have driven Chinese forces out of the east China port of Foochow after a two day battle, but hard fighting is continuing outside the city, it was announced today.

Chinese military spokesmen said their troops were driven out of Foochow Sunday after fighting their way into the seaport on Friday.

On the Hunan front, where victorious Chinese troops were engaged in mopping up isolated pockets of three Japanese divisions smashed while attempting a drive on the air base town of Chungking, U. S. 14th air force fighters inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy ground forces.

Woman Is Held As Slayer of Husband

PORTLAND, Ore., May 17 (UP)—A family quarrel in which a kitchen knife prominently figured today brought death to Albert H. Clark, 52.

His widow, Mrs. Helen M. Clark, faces open charges, police said.

Police who responded to Mrs. Clark's call for a first aid car, found Clark was dead. He had been stabbed in the leg.

Trieste Looters Are Halted at Point of U. S. Guns

Italian Partisans' Spoils Are Confiscated

TRIESTE, May 17 (UP)—American troops halted Yugoslav soldiers at gun point in the disputed Italian border area near Gorizia today and confiscated loot being removed by the partisans from the west side of the Isonzo river.

The Americans threw up roadblocks all around the Gorizia area northwest of Trieste and stopped and searched all Yugoslav soldiers and their Italian partisan followers attempting to pass through.

Property is Seized

The doughboys, backed up by machine guns and anti-tank batteries, seized a considerable quantity of property that apparently had been stolen from Italian soil during the recent wholesale looting west of the Isonzo river.

Most of the looters were members of brigade of Italian communists operating under Marshal Tito's Yugoslav partisan banner, but a number of Yugoslavs also were halted.

The troops were withdrawing from the west side of the Isonzo under orders from Tito, whose forces still were in control of Trieste and the city of Gorizia.

SITUATION IS EASED

LONDON, May 17 (UP)—The tense Trieste situation appeared eased somewhat today after conciliatory moves and remarks by both sides.

Marshal Tito had withdrawn his troops from west of the Isonzo river in northern Italy, where they had been encroaching on territory taken by the allied armies. And it was stressed in Rome that the appearance of a British fleet in Trieste harbor was not intended as a show of strength to Tito.

However, there were no reports so far that Tito had replied to the American and British notes asking the withdrawal of his forces from the city. A United Press dispatch from Trieste reported that heavily-armed partisans still patrolled the city's streets, rubbing elbows with American G. I.'s and white-uniformed British tars.

Yanks Gird for Final Smash at Japs on Okinawa

MANILA, May 17 (UP)—American troops have smashed forward another five miles to within eight miles of Valencia, the enemy's last big air base on Mindanao, it was announced today.

It was doubtful whether the Japanese still were using Valencia, but its capture would give the Americans additional facilities for bombing the remaining enemy strongholds on the island. The field, built by the United States army air force in the far east in 1942, consists of two all-weather grass strips, one 4,000 feet long, the other 5,000 feet.

The 31st division, which was closing on Valencia, was less than 40 air miles from a junction with the 40th division advancing southward. A meeting between the two would bisect Mindanao lengthwise.

Likeness of FDR to Adorn Dime, Bond

WASHINGTON, May 17 (UP)—President Roosevelt's likeness will be used on a new dime and also will adorn a new series of war bonds.

Secretary of Treasury Morgenthau, jr., announced today the decision to issue these coins and bonds.

Production of the Roosevelt dime will begin soon and they will be put into circulation about Christmas time. As present dimes wear out, the Roosevelt dime gradually will replace all existing ones in circulation.

Weather

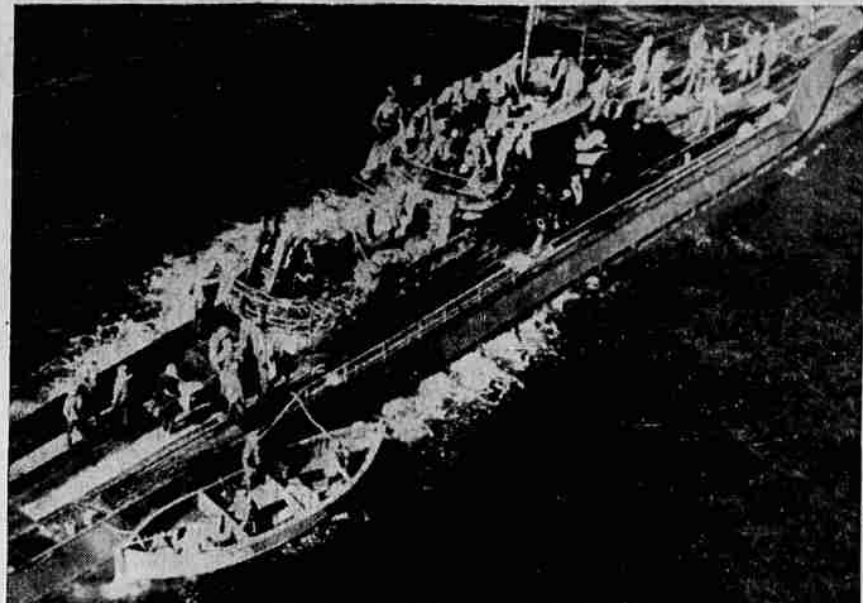
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.

Temperature: 55

Minimum: 40

Precipitation: .25

Forecast: Partly cloudy, showers tonight and Friday.



NAZI SUB SURRENDERS TO U. S. NAVY—The American flag (just aft of conning tower) flies over the German submarine U-858, first enemy warship to surrender to U. S. naval forces since V-E Day. In coastal waters off Cape May, American bluejackets from escort vessels prepare to remove the crew, some of whom have their arms in air while submitting to search.

King Sees Key to Peace in United Nations Alliance

LONDON, May 17 (UP)—King George VI said in a special victory message to parliament today that the grand alliance of the United Nations that defeated Germany "can and must continue" into the post-war era to insure world peace.

Calling for renewed unity among the victorious powers to prevent another world conflict, the British monarch warned that the purposes for which the United Nations were linked in war "do not end in the victory." "Mankind looks forward to the time when all nations, under God's providence, will be able to work together in mutual confidence for these exalted aims," he said.

Pétain Blames Laval for French Collaborationism

PARIS, May 17 (UP)—Marshal Henri Philippe Pétain, former French chief of state, sought to shift full responsibility for his government's collaboration with Germany to former Premier Pierre Laval at preliminary questioning, it was disclosed today.

Asked why he had appointed Laval if he disliked him, Pétain replied: "I hoped he would improve."

The aged marshal was questioned for two hours yesterday by the president of the preliminary investigating committee in the presence of his two attorneys. In about 10 days he will be questioned by the entire commission whose duty will be to decide if there is sufficient evidence for trying him before the high court.

Pétain appeared tired but he retained full command of his faculties, remembering names and dates without difficulty.

Beef Set-Aside for Army is Reduced

WASHINGTON, May 17 (UP)—The war food administration today reduced the amount of beef federally inspected slaughterers must reserve for army purchase, but the action will not mean any more beef for civilians.

At the same time WFA extended the set-aside provisions to include cow as well as steer and heifer beef. The reduction was from 60 to 55 per cent of all army-style beef slaughtered.

WFA also reduced from 40 to 30 per cent the government taking of him smoked 96 hours but increased from 10 to 20 per cent the set-aside on hams smoked 48 hours.

Both actions are effective Monday.

Defense Council to Continue in Oregon

SALEM, Ore., May 17 (UP)—The Oregon state defense council will not be disbanded, in spite of the fact that the national organization will soon cease to exist, it was stated tonight by Jack Hayes, state coordinator of the OCD.

Graduation Speaker Pictures Dreams of Youth as Foundation Stones of Successful Careers

Dreams of youth are the foundations upon which great successes in life often are erected, Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, told the graduating class of La Grande high school at commencement exercises last night, as he left with the graduates the admonition to "keep your dreams" and work hard to build them into realities.

Speaking on "The Grand Act," Putnam pointed to the careers of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas A. Edison, Florence Nightingale and others as examples of how the names of these famous people went down into history for their "grand acts." He said it is within the realm of possibility that the names of many young people of today can become indelibly etched on the pages of time through their own "grand acts" if they will apply themselves diligently and work hard to achieve their cherished goals.

Boys in Service Lauded

He paid tribute to the 24 members of the class now in the armed services and for whom diplomas were issued, asserting that it is their willingness to offer themselves that such gatherings as the commencement exercises can be held in America.

Putnam was introduced by Superintendent Fred Patton. Principal Ralph Jones issued scholarships to various members of the class and presented the graduate to Claude Berry, chairman of the board of education, who presented the diplomas to the cap and gown graduates.

The exercises opened with the playing of Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" and the procession, and the high school Alma Mater as the recessional.

The invocation was asked by Rev. Floyd E. White and the benediction by Rev. Stanley Hunt.

The girls' sextet and Betty Miller presented vocal numbers and Irwin Wright a violin selection.

A reception for the graduates followed the program.

La Grande Soldier Killed in Accident

Mrs. Laura Mae Browning yesterday received a telegram from the war department stating that her husband, First Lt. Don Browning, died on May 6 in a vehicle accident in Germany.

No details were given but it stated that confirmation would be sent by letter.

Lieutenant Browning went overseas in August, 1944. Mrs. Browning, the former Laura Mae Kopp, and their three-month-old daughter reside in La Grande.

Church Suspends Social Activities

Suspension of social activities in the various wards of the Latter Day Saints church during the remainder of the week was announced today, following the death of Hebe O. Grant, president of the parent church.

Scheduled events included a three-act play and social which was to have been presented tomorrow evening the La Grande second ward mutual improvement association. The program has been postponed until 7 p. m., May 23.

ACTRESS COLLAPSES

HOLLYWOOD, May 17 (UP)—Screen star Claudette Colbert collapsed today on a sound stage for the second time within ten days.

The actress had returned to work today after spending the last 10 days at home with influenza. Dr. Myron Prinzmetal ordered Miss Colbert home for an indefinite stay.

Full Employment Made Objective Of United Nations

Clause Adopted As Action Pends On Regional Plan

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17 (UP)—A United Nations conference committee today unanimously added "full employment" throughout the world to the list of objectives of the proposed world organization's social and economic council.

The action came with committee approval of a new draft of the section of the world organization charter setting forth the proposals of the social and economic council.

"Big Five" Session Called

The action was revealed shortly after Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr., called another meeting of the "big five" to decide whether the conference should act on the proposed regional arrangements compromise without advance Russian approval.

If Russian instructions on that issue are not here when the big five convene late today, Stettinius is expected to serve notice that the United States will sponsor the regional formula alone. Several members of the U. S. delegation are known to be extremely irritated by the 48 hour delay already caused by the Russians.

On the major unsolved issue—trusteeships—there were better signs of progress. The full conference trusteeship committee began discussing the "working paper" drafted by Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen. The Russians also were understood to be awaiting instructions from Moscow on this issue.

U. S. Troops Close On Enemy's Last Base on Mindanao

GUAM, May 17 (UP)—American doughboys and marines, massed along the Naha-Yonabaru line on Okinawa, sent patrols in both key towns today preparatory to what may be the final lunge for control of the big island.

The Japanese were resisting furiously from well-established defense positions.

The army's 382nd regiment was within 200 yards of Shuri in the center of the line, which appeared to be the chief obstacle to a swing down the island on both the western and eastern flanks.

Tanks pushed out 300 yards toward Yonabaru and 6th marine division patrols probed the body and debris-strewn streets in the capital city of Naha. Ahead of the marines on the west side of the island lay Naha airstrip, a mile southwest of the capital and biggest single prize of the 48-day campaign.

Only the tenacity of an estimated 30,000 or more fanatical enemy troops—who were being killed at the rate of one a minute—stood in the way of American forces anxious for a quick clean-up of the island.

Stettinius Denies Split With Britain

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17 (UP)—Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius today denied that there are any differences between the United States and British views on the Polish phase of the Crimea agreement.

This statement was made by Stettinius in reply to inquiries about a published dispatch which said the late President Roosevelt, in an exchange of letters with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Marshal Josef Stalin, defined the U. S. position on the Polish dispute and that Mr. Roosevelt's interpretation disagreed with Churchill's.

Restaurant's Looking Food, Will Close

NEW YORK, May 17 (UP)—Paul Henkel, president of the society of restaurateurs, said today that from 300 to 400 city restaurants will close on June 1 because of food shortages.

Henkel said that if food supplies continued to fall off that the number would be doubled or tripled by July 1.