

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

# La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Umatilla and Wallowa Counties

Quick Results at Low Cost  
SELL! BUY! LEASE!  
Use A Classified Ad  
Phone 600

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON, FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 25, 1945

FIVE CENTS

# Tons of Fire Bombs Rain on Tokyo

## Yanks Seal Japs in Okinawa Caves

### New Landings Near Tokyo Predicted as Shuri Battle Rages

GUAM, Saturday, May 26 (UP) — Grenade-throwing marines systematically sealed off Japanese caves in fierce hand-to-hand fighting outside Shuri today while army troops shattered organized resistance on the southeastern Okinawa front beyond Yonabaru.

Japan announced without added confirmation that special suicide troops of the Giretsu corps had "landed" — presumably by parachute — on two American-held air fields Thursday night and blew up U. S. installations, aircraft and munitions depots.

An Imperial headquarters communique said a coordinated Kamikaze suicide plane attack was carried out against a great fleet of American naval and merchant vessels lying off Okinawa.

"The air-borne units," said the Japanese communique, "are achieving great war results by throwing the enemy into confusion."

Tokyo predicted American troops soon would attempt a landing on Amami island, 115 miles northeast of Okinawa and 185 miles south of Japan proper. Yesterday the enemy said 400 American transports and craft of various sizes and classes were lying off the island.

Tenth army ground forces have clamped a half-circle around Shuri, stubbornly-resisting fortress city invested by the first marines and 77th and 96th infantry.

A stoutly-held ravine at the edge of the city held up the leathernecks' advance. Here the marines, under cover of darkness, prowled boldly through enemy defenses, hurling grenades and "Molotov cocktails" into the entrances.

Shuri and Naha were threatened from the rear by the disorganization of Japanese defenses south and southwest of Yonabaru.

In Shuri, the ancient stone castle, built by Japanese shoguns nearly four centuries ago, was under fire from naval guns of American warships. U. S. artillery laced the Shuri breastworks with shell bursts.

The Japanese communique identified the air fields under attack as the "north" and "central," presumably Yontan and Katena, captured in the first few days of the American invasion of Okinawa.

President Truman will not visit Oregon

PORTLAND, May 25 (UP) — President Truman will not be a Portland visitor during his visit to the Pacific northwest after addressing the United Nations security conference in San Francisco, Lew Wallace of Portland, democratic national committeeman for Oregon, announced today.

Wallace received a telegram from the president's chief administrative assistant saying, "regret that the president will be unable to stop at Portland during his trip."

President Truman will, however, be a guest of Gov. Mon C. Walgren of Washington after his San Francisco address.

Italian Socialist Leader is Jailed

ROME, May 25 (UP) — British military authorities arrested Socialist leader Pietro Nenni, chief leftist candidate for the Italian premiership, today.

Nenni was arrested at Vercelli in northern Italy after delivering a speech to a workers' mass meeting in defiance of a specific order by allied authorities.

Baseball Results

NATIONAL LEAGUE  
New York 3 10 0  
Cincinnati 2 6 2  
Fiedman and Lombardi; Heuser and Lakeman.  
Philadelphia 2 7 1  
Chicago 4 10 1  
Wyatt, Kennedy, Luetter and Mancuso; Wyse and Rice.

AMERICAN LEAGUE  
St. Louis 5 12 0  
Boston 0 8 0  
Potter and Mancuso; Wilson.

### U. S. Stands Firm On Retention Of Security Veto

#### Big Five Plans Formal Denial Of Pact Change

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25 (UP) — Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, jr., returned to the United Nations conference from Washington today and plunged immediately into a series of meetings aimed at ironing out the controversy over the big five's proposed veto power.

Within a few hours after his arrival, Stettinius met with other members of the American delegation and then with the big five leaders — Soviet Ambassador Lord Halifax, Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong and French Delegation Chief Joseph Paul-Boncour.

Modification Rejected  
The United States, Britain, Russia and China already had made it clear that they will reject all demands of the "little" United Nations for modification of their veto power under the Yalta voting formula for the proposed security council.

Stettinius is believed to have been assured by President Truman, during his two days in Washington, that this country has no intention of backing down from that formula.

It was learned that the U. S. delegation meeting this morning was devoted to a sometimes heated discussion of the prolegomena of a statement being prepared by the big powers in answer to U. S. STANDS . . . Page 5

### Orders, Shipments Of Pine Increase

PORTLAND, Ore., May 25 (UP) — Orders for Idaho white pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine and associated species for the week ended May 19 totaled 51,910,000 feet as compared with 52,792,000 feet for the previous week, the Western pine association reported today.

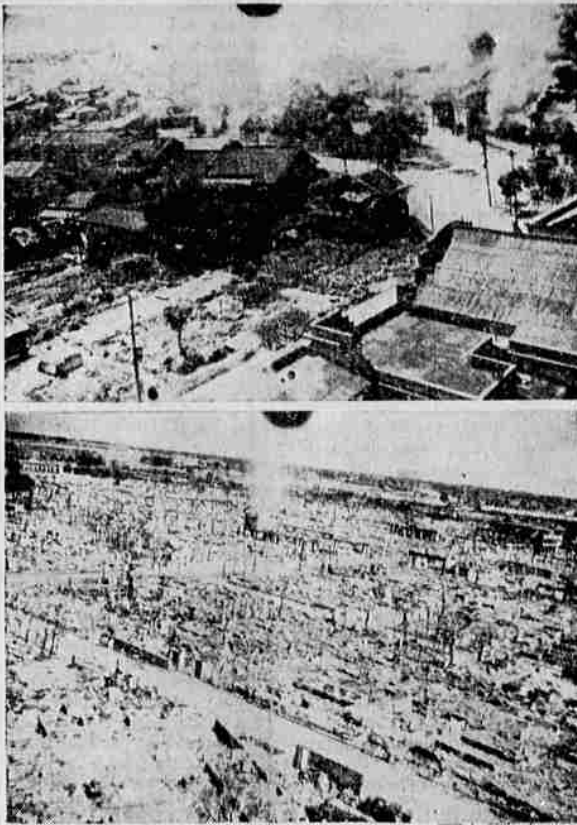
Based on information from 103 identical mills, the report disclosed that pine orders for the corresponding week of 1944 were 77,938,000 feet. Similar comparisons of shipments were 60,750,000 feet, 55,955,000 feet and 73,351,000 feet; and of production are 59,094,000 feet, 65,952,000 feet and 79,692,000 feet.

### Inland Burma Port Abandoned By Japs

CALCUTTA, May 25 (UP) — British 14th army troops, sailing up the Bassein river from the southwest Burma coast, reached the important inland port of Bassein river from the southwest Burma coast, reached the important inland port of Bassein, 88 miles west of Rangoon, and found it clear of Japanese, a communique said today.

Main jetties of the port were reported destroyed but smaller jetties were described as in "fair condition."

Mopping up operations were reported continuing "satisfactorily" in other areas.



FORMOSA RAILROAD TOWN DESTROYED — Smoke rises from bomb bursts (top photo) in Kagi, west central Formosa railroad town as B-25 bombers of famed "Air Apache" bomb group came in for a low level attack. Testimony to force of strike is reconnaissance photo (lower photo) made after attack showing town in complete and utter ruins. AAF photo.

### Local Airfields Held Necessary To Aviation Growth

#### Needs Surveyed For Participation In Federal Plans

Preliminary survey of Oregon's overall needs in aviation expansion, with particular reference to the requirements of separate areas and communities, was completed by the state board of aeronautics authority and civil aeronautics authority representatives last night in Baker in the concluding meeting of a series held throughout the state.

W. M. Pearce, member of the state board from La Grande, said, following the session, that "the survey has indicated very emphatically that the principal need and demand is for small landing fields of the non-paved type close to populated areas. This is particularly true in those wide expanses of the state that are sparsely populated."

County Group Attends  
Eleven representatives from civic and private flying interests in La Grande, Elgin and other sections of Union county attended the Baker meeting at which 93 persons represented 13 communities in eastern Oregon.

Among those attending were Ed H. Ford, city manager and a director of the state aviation council; Raymond Gray, president of the chamber of commerce, and W. M. Pierson, commanding officer of the La Grande CAP.

Representing the state and federal groups were Leo Devaney, director of the state board; Pearce, E. S. Moreny, member of the board from Portland and associated LOCAL . . . Page 5

## La Grande Plans Memorial Day Tribute to War Heroes

Tribute to the men and women who have given their lives that democracy might be perpetuated in America will be paid by the people of La Grande on Wednesday at Memorial Day exercises sponsored by the various veterans' organizations and other patriotic groups.

Starting with a parade through the business district at 10:30 a.m., with assembly at Greenwood and Washington streets a half-hour earlier, the paraders will disband at the Elks building and go to the Masonic cemetery for patriotic exercises.

In the event if inclement weather the program will be presented in the First Methodist church.

The exercises will include ritualistic services of the United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and rites conducted by the Woman's Relief corps and the Daughters of Veterans.

Mrs. August P. Nelson is in charge of the program arrangements.

Also participating in plans for the event are the auxiliaries of the various veterans' organizations, Navy Mothers, Wives and Mothers Service club, cadet nurses from the college, boy and girl scouts, and Mavericks. All service men in uniform here on leave are invited to be in the parade.

Commander George Tass, American Legion, Commander Dick Burnett, VFW and Commander William Ross, Spanish War Veterans, have urged members of their organizations to take part in the Memorial Day parade.

Thomas E. Strand, boiler-maker of first class, U. S. navy, has been seriously wounded in action, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Strand, were notified today by the navy department.

His injuries were diagnosed as blast concussion in the abdomen. No details were given.

Strand is serving in the Pacific, and his wife, the former Jessie Ford, is seriously ill at her home here.

### Scholarships of Lions and Eagles Go to 15 Students

Award of Eastern Oregon college scholarships for 1945-46 given by the La Grande Lions club and individual members, and those given by the La Grande lodge of Eagles were announced today by President Roben J. Maaske of the college.

The Lions club awards are: Marie Arrieta of La Grande, Leona Laird of Umatilla, Claire Mackinnis of Imbler, from the Snodgrass funeral home; Leroy Childers of Cove, from Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Bohnenkamp; Janice Friedberg of Helix by Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Gerards; Barbara Dale of Ontario by the Van Petten lumber company; Rhoda Lloid of Cove by Louise building service; Denise Decker of La Grande by Mr. and Mrs. George Tass; Margaret Sommerer of Hermiston by Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Goss; Dorothy Holdreid of Athena by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. McCrathy; Claudine Tomlinson of Nisba by T. H. Labbe. An additional scholarship given by Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Weimer has not yet been awarded.

The Eagles' scholarships went to Ruth Barlow, La Grande; Thelma Jean Casay of Milton-Freewater, and Kathleen Mae Paulson of Irrigon.

What's In A Name? Try These for Style!

CHARLESTON, W. Va., May 25 (UP) — The state health department issued copies of birth certificates to the following: Pansy Ella Burd; Bo Peep Window; Icy Hall; Norway Sweden Hard; George Seldom Scene; Nitor Glycerine Milliken; Hustle Bias, and Regular German Nimble Ink Bennett.

La Grande Sailor Is Seriously Wounded

Thomas E. Strand, boiler-maker of first class, U. S. navy, has been seriously wounded in action, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Strand, were notified today by the navy department.

His injuries were diagnosed as blast concussion in the abdomen. No details were given.

Strand is serving in the Pacific, and his wife, the former Jessie Ford, is seriously ill at her home here.

## Heart of Business District Blasted by 500 Superforts

GUAM, Saturday, May 26 (UP) — Five hundred Superfortresses blasted the central business district and waterfront area of Tokyo with more than 4,000 tons of building-piercing incendiary bombs early today in the second big-scale attack against the enemy's capital within 48 hours.

Striking shortly after midnight from medium altitude, the mammoth air fleet heaped new destruction on the heart of the metropolis still smoking from Thursday morning's record-breaking raid by 550-plus B-29s.

Within the target area were Tokyo's piers, docks, wharves, warehouses, aircraft parts plants, machine tool factories, the Ginza — Japan's Broadway — and the Marunouchi, main business area which contains most of the capital's earthquake-proof office and government buildings.

The 20th air force announced in Washington that 12 Superfortresses were lost to enemy action in the May 23 raid. The Japanese claimed 27 were shot down and 30 damaged.

"Good results were obtained" Thursday, the announcement said, and preliminary photographic reports showed that 3.2 square miles or approximately 85,000,000 square feet were burned out or damaged in the Shinagawa small-industry district of Tokyo. Fires raged at least 12 hours.

For this morning's attack, Maj. Gen. Curtis Lemay's 21st bomber command selected a heavier type incendiary bomb than the one used in previous raids on Tokyo and Nagoya. The new jellied-gasoline bomb is capable of piercing heavy structures.

The target area under fire today is as famous in its own way as Broadway in New York, the Loop in Chicago and Market street in San Francisco. Here are located extensive military storage sites, factories producing electronic equipment and such noted structures as the luxurious Imperial hotel.

The area is bounded on the north by the Imperial palace grounds and on the south by the Shinagawa industrial section.

The mission this morning, originating from Maj. Gen. Curtis Lemay's 21st bomber command fields on Saipan, Tinian and Guam, was preceded by small-scale attacks by 60 Mustang fighters and reconnaissance Superforts, enemy reports indicated.

### Superfort Officer Given Decoration

Award of the distinguished flying cross to First Lt. Bobby C. Karther of La Grande is announced in a communication from the headquarters of the 20th air force on Guam.

Karther is a member of a crew of B-29 Superfortresses of the 21st bomber command received the medal for extraordinary achievement while participating in bombing missions against objectives on the Japanese mainland.

Lt. Karther's wife, Mildred, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Karther live at I.O.O.F. apartments.

### Heroic Soldier Is 'Through With Army'

LUCEDALE, Miss., May 25 (UP) — Sgt. Jake Lindsey, congressional medal of honor holder, said today he is "through with the army" and would apply for a discharge after he had rested a little while. He said he had been offered one job at \$6,000 a year, but didn't reveal what kind.

"I'm thinking it over," he said.

### Scout Camporee Dates Are Changed

Postponement of the camporee of Mt. Emily district boy scouts because of wet weather was announced today.

The event was to have been staged this week-end at Catherine creek, and the new date is June 4 and 5 in the same location. Scout officials announced that because of present conditions it is impractical to hold the camporee.

Meanwhile, preparations are going ahead for the summer camp at Wallowa lake, opening July 1, where the waterfront is being improved. An extended program of activities is being arranged.

## Heroic Destroyer Crew Weathers Worst Attack Japs Can Offer

ABOARD ADM. TURNER'S FLAGSHIP, Okinawa, April 19 (UP) — Brave soldiers died strapped to their gun seats in the agony of the United States destroyer Laffey, another great ship that refused to be sunk.

The gunners fired until they were swallowed up in the searing flames of exploding Japanese suicide planes and bombs.

In two hours the 2,200-ton destroyer was hit by six suicide planes and two bombs. Other bombs came close enough to increase the damage.

The ship's rudder was jammed to the left by a bomb and the vessel sped dizzily in a circle during the raging battle. The engineers judged the speed needed by the sound and intensity of the gunfire.

The saga of the Laffey's two hours of agony will stand out among the sea epics of the war along with other great episodes such as that of the Franklin.

It was unquestionably the most savage and spectacular action SEATTLE, May 25 (UP) — Her hull and superstructure grotesquely twisted by impact of six hurtling Jap suicide planes, and two bombs, the United States destroyer Laffey slid into harbor here today, enroute under her own power, to a shipyard to patch her battle wounds.

"Riddled like a sieve above the water-line" to quote her skipper, Cmdr. Frederick J. Becton, Hot Springs, Ark., tied up to a navy landing pier where naval officials planned to show her to the public, another American fighting ships the Japs just could not sink.

in which an American destroyer has participated in the entire war. In no other part of the world would the enemy hurl six screaming

### Weather

WASHINGTON, May 25 (UP) — The navy today announced the loss off Okinawa of five vessels, including the destroyer USS Little.

The navy described overall casualties as moderate.

Lost in addition to the Little were two medium landing ships, the minesweeper Swallow, and one LST.

The Little had participated in the bombardment of Iwo Jima and was part of the screening force in that operation.