

Tokyo Is Laid Waste by B-29 Bombs

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

ESTABLISHED 1896

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 26, 1943

FIVE CENTS



YANKS MOVE INTO NAHA—Reports from Okinawa today said American troops had captured one-sixth of the capital city of Naha which the Japanese seem to be abandoning for a final stand at Shuri, strongly fortified point to the east. The map shows the battle line both flanks of which have been turned by U. S. dough-boys and marines.

Desperate Suicide Raid of Japs Ends in Slaughter

YONTAN AIRFIELD, Okinawa, May 25—(Delayed)—(UP)—(Via navy radio)—American pilots, mechanics and crash crewmen in a half hour's pitched battle last night wiped out a handful of survivors of a force of 150 Japanese suicide troops who attempted a desperate landing on Yontan airfield.

The remainder of 15 bomber loads of Jap troops armed with mortars, machine guns and grenades, were killed in crash landings on the airstrip or by air and ground defenses over Okinawa.

President Rejects Plea for Public Speech on Coast

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—The White House today rejected proposals that President Truman speak in San Francisco's civic auditorium when he addresses the final plenary session of the United Nations security conference.

California friends of the president have urged that the final ceremony be transferred to the auditorium to accommodate a larger crowd.

The opera house, where all plenary sessions of the conference have been held, seats about 3,500. The auditorium seats about 15,000.

Five Feared Dead In Ordnance Blast

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., May 26 (UP)—Five persons were believed killed and four injured in an explosion on a bomb loading platform in the Cornhusker ordnance plant during the lunch period today, Major F. H. Phillips announced.

None of the dead has been identified, Phillips said. The explosion occurred in the melt and pouring building where shell and bomb cases were loaded.

Baseball Results

By United Press

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Boston at Pittsburgh, postponed, rain.	
New York 5 7 1	
Cincinnati 1 5 1	
Hansen and Lombardi, Beck, Bush, Bosser and Lakemans.	
Philadelphia 1 4 3	
Chicago 0 2 5 2	
Lee and Mancuso; Erickson and Rice.	

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Detroit 5 12 2	
Philadelphia 4 12 2	
Wilson and Richards; Black, Gerkin and Hayes.	
Chicago 0 3 2	
New York 13 13 1	
Lee, Touchstone and Tresh, Castino, Dubiel and Crompton.	

Secrecy Shrouds Rumors Of Rift On Security Vote

U. S. Group Splits On Answer to Little Nations

SAN FRANCISCO, May 26 (UP)—The American delegation to the United Nations security conference was pledged to secrecy today to prevent leakage of details concerning an apparent rift within the delegation over interpretation of the controversial Yalta voting formula.

The intra-delegation row apparently was solely over the question of wording a big four statement designed to answer a series of 22 questions posed by the "little" United Nations about the veto power which the big five would possess in the world organization's security council under the Yalta formula.

There appeared to be no disposition among any members of the delegation to change the formula. The United States group apparently is going along with Russia in adamantly opposing the little nations' efforts to curtail the veto powers. But there were differences among the U. S. delegates on how the formula should be interpreted.

The delegation met for more than two hours this morning, continuing its discussion of the statement which eventually will be issued by the big four—the United States, Britain, Russia and China—in answer to the 22 questions.

Great Britain is understood to be seeking big four concurrence in a proposal to soften the Yalta formula, against stubborn resistance by Russia and the United States.

Big four inability to agree on how to put in writing an interpretation of that formula—especially where and when the big power veto would apply—is delaying United Nations conference progress on the last major issue. It threatened to prolong the conference beyond the tentative adjournment target—the first week of June.

Ten of the planes, loaded with special Jap suicide corpsmen who carried rations, grenades, machine guns and knee mortars, were shot down over Okinawa.

Eight or more Japanese who managed to survive the crash landing on Yontan, staged a pitched battle with pilots, mechanics, crash crew men and enlisted men in the glare of flames from burning Japanese and American planes. Most of them were cut down immediately by rifle and machine gun fire. Others were tracked down and killed later.

House Supports Truman Move To Reduce Tariffs

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—The House today supported an administration request for authority to make further reductions in protective tariffs after a plea from President Truman that it was of first importance to the success of his administration.

In committee of the whole, the house voted down, 197 to 174, a Republican-sponsored amendment to eliminate the reduction authority from the pending reciprocal trade extension act.

Mr. Truman's plea, read to the house by Speaker Sam Rayburn, followed a bitter two and a half hour debate in which Republicans protested that further reductions in tariffs would wreck the national economy.

The tariff reduction provision would authorize the chief executive to make agreements lowering tariffs 50 per cent below the rates existing Jan. 1.

Under the existing act expiring June 12, the president may cut tariff duties 50 per cent below those set in the 1930 Smoot-Hawley act.

Triggerman Dies In Gangland War

CHICAGO, May 26 (UP)—Police today groped for clues to identities of two men who murdered James "Red" Fawcett, 44-year-old reputed triggerman, in the latest apparent flareup of Chicago gang warfare.

Fawcett, said by police to have been "responsible" for 20 slayings in many years, was cut down by shotgun slugs last night in a southside tavern before the eyes of his wife, Genevieve, and 20 other patrons.

War Bond Sales in County Are 22 Percent of Quota

Sales of bonds in the 7th war loan campaign in Union county were reported today to be lagging behind the national average, although several communities and groups have reached or are approaching their quotas.

Figures tabulated yesterday show sales in Union county aggregating \$218,838 sales value, or approximately 22 per cent of the quota of \$964,000. Sales of E bonds in the county to date total \$164,000, also 22 per cent of the \$741,000 quota.

A report by the war finance division of the treasury department says sales of E bonds nationally have reached 34 per cent of the \$4,000,000,000 quota, or \$1,366,000,000.

College Passes Quota—Latest report in Union county to report passing the E bond quota mark is Eastern Oregon college, where sales yesterday totaled \$4,069.50, or nearly 21 per cent more than the quota of \$3,337.50. The sales at the college were under the direction of L. F. Sterne of the faculty.

Various community bond sales organizations have reported in the past few days that they expect to reach their quotas in a short time, and while there is a general feeling of optimism over the way the campaign has been progressing to this point, it is conceded that considerable work remains to be done if the county is to reach the unusually high quota of sales to individuals.

Much of the effort in Union county is being concentrated on sales to employed persons at their places of employment, and to farmers.

The college sales were made as a part of the campaign among people where they are employed, which is being conducted by a committee of the Lions club.

While the necessity for purchasing bonds to speed the victory over Japan is the paramount issue of the bond campaign, every person engaged in the campaign also is laying special stress on the investment value of the bonds, and their value as a deterrent to inflation and as a means of building up a fund for purchases of civilian goods when they again become available.

W. C. Perkins, county chairman, announced the resignation of Mrs. Frank Fehrmann as bond campaign chairman of the Starkey district, and the appointment of Mrs. Chris Mitchell as her successor. He also announced that Ralph Coats and Bruce Morehead are taking an active part in the campaign to sell the Starkey quota of \$10,000. They reported prospects of sales of \$4,000.

Scholarships From Rotary Awarded

President Roben J. Maaske of Eastern Oregon college, today announced the names of the recipients of \$74 scholarships given by the La Grande Rotary club and individual members of the club, as follows: Marjorie Hite, Adrian; Valeda Purvis, Vale; Ruth Jones, Maupin; Dorothy Bliss of Redmond, Mary Howell, Heppner, all from the club; Lule Stickney of The Dalles from Glass Drug Co.; Donna Jo Wyvick of Pendleton from W. C. and W. F. Perkins; Dorothy Mayfield from Mr. and Mrs. Claude Berry; and Zola Thomas of Fossil from Judge and Mrs. R. J. Green.

Italy Veterans Will Not Go To Pacific

PARIS, May 26 (UP)—Supreme headquarters said today that combat veterans of the European theater who also fought in Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia or Italy will not be required to go to the Pacific.

Young Mother Ends Life After Drowning Four Small Children

GLASGOW, Mont., May 26 (UP)—Seven-year-old Johnny Campbell remained at home with his stepfather today, the only survivor when his mother threw five of her children and herself into the Milk river yesterday. His ability to swim saved his life.

The bodies of two children, bludgeoned with a hammer, and 24-year-old Mrs. Inez Campbell have been recovered. A motor boat crew today was searching the river for the other two bodies.

Andrew Campbell, father of all the children but Johnny, was out of town when the tragedy occurred. She left a note indicating she was losing her mind. Johnny related how his mother herded her children together, telling them she was going to take them across the river to visit a farm.



RETURNS TO CABINET—Leslie Hore-Belisha, former war minister in the British cabinet, has been named by Prime Minister Churchill as minister of national insurance in the "caretaker" cabinet announced last night.

Churchill Plots Big Three Meeting On Election Eve

LONDON, May 26 (UP)—Prime Minister Churchill said today that the next big three meeting may be held between June 15 and July 5, at the height of Britain's general election campaign.

In an election speech delivered at suburban Loughton, Churchill gave the strongest official intimation that a meeting with President Truman and Premier Stalin is imminent, and that he might have to leave Britain for the conference.

"If I have to be away from this constituency during the 17 days of the election period (June 15 to July 5), Mrs. Churchill will take my place, he said.

"It may be I shall have to go to some conference of what they call the 'big three'."

Election is Secondary—The prime minister made it clear that not even the all-important general election on which the life of his government depends will be permitted to delay "even for a day" the proposed conference.

The British election timetable calls for dissolution of parliament on June 15 with the polling day 17 days later, excluding Sunday. Churchill said he has informed President Truman that the election must not be permitted to interfere with arrangement for a conference between them and Premier Stalin on pressing international questions.

He is scheduled to confer with Joseph E. Davies, Mr. Truman's special envoy over the week-end. It is believed they will discuss plans for the big three meeting and questions connected with See CHURCHILL... Page 7.

Truman Emissary Confers With Stalin

LONDON, May 26 (UP)—Radio Moscow said that Marshal Stalin tonight received Harry L. Hopkins, special envoy of President Truman, and United States Ambassador W. Averell Harriman. They arrived in Moscow yesterday.

Earlier Hopkins conferred with the chiefs of allied delegations here. American and Russian quarters alike were reticent on the subject of Hopkins' visit, which was expected to last some time.

Huge Service Fund Sought for Church

MINNEAPOLIS, May 26 (UP)—The general assembly of the Presbyterian church, U.S.A., was asked to raise \$24,750,000 to meet wartime service and post-war needs.

Dr. George Emerson Barnes, Philadelphia, chairman of the wartime service commission, made the proposal. It will be acted upon by the assembly after it considers needs of the church pension fund.

Emperor's Palace Is Razed; Premier Says Entire City Wrecked

GUAM, May 26 (UP)—Premier Baron Kantaro Suzuki announced tonight that huge fires touched off by American Superfortresses damaged Tokyo so extensively that the entire city will have to be rebuilt. Japan also reported Emperor Hirohito's palace virtually was destroyed.

"Our beautiful capital must be completely replanned from a bare start," Premier Suzuki told his nation in a radio broadcast Saturday night (Japan time). "There is no present hope for mere restoration."

Earlier Japanese broadcasts said flames started by 4,000 tons of incendiary bombs and whipped by 70-mile-an-hour gales had "laid waste" to most of the remainder of Tokyo.

Suzuki said the Saturday B-29 raid was "comparatively on a large scale," and "it must be admitted that considerable damage was caused by the numerous fires fanned by strong winds." Fires were still raging 18 hours after the raid.

"We must now make a positive drive with our very all for a struggle for victory."

Large Areas Destroyed—The capital, once the world's third largest city, was "literally scorched to the ground," one said.

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—Nineteen superfortresses were lost in yesterday's great fire raid on Tokyo, the 20th air force announced today.

This was the largest number of B-29s ever lost on a single mission. Twelve were lost in the earlier Tokyo raid this week.

broadcast said. Virtually the entire central business section, including many government ministries, was said to have been leveled by the flames.

A Japanese announcement said Hirohito and his empress were safe, along with the Empress Dowager, his mother, whose nearby Omiya palace also burned to the ground.

Suzuki Calls Cabinet—Premier Suzuki called an extraordinary meeting of his cabinet while inhabitants of the capital still were fighting the fires kindled by 500 B-29s with 4,000 tons of incendiaries just after midnight.

Suzuki issued a statement regarding the burning of the Imperial palaces, radio Tokyo said, and the cabinet minister pledged to work for the "renovation of the administration."

Vice ministers also were called into session later and deliberated upon measures to meet the air raid threat, Tokyo said. Suzuki and two other cabinet ministers had visited the palace immediately after the raid "to ascertain the whereabouts of installations and personnel," a broadcast said.

A Japanese communique said the "front" or outer palace and other buildings within Hirohito's palace compound were burned down. It also conceded "considerable damage" elsewhere in the city.

Registration For College Session to Open On June 11

John M. Miller, director of summer school sessions at Eastern Oregon college, announced today that registration for the sessions will start June 11. The second session will open July 19.

Summer school sessions will be organized to provide for five groups of students, those working toward the degree of bachelor of science in elementary education or toward the three-year diploma, refresher course, out-of-state teachers who need special courses in school law and Oregon history, and high school graduates who wish to start their college course this summer.

The campus elementary school will be open during the session for observation and practice teaching opportunities. Dorion hall on the campus will be open during the summer to provide living accommodations for students.

Objectors' Release Will Be Delayed

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—Discharge of conscientious objectors under a point system was delayed in deference to public opinion, selective service officials said today.

Selective service announced yesterday the points under which about 900 out of some 3,300 objectors in 113 camps and other projects will be discharged during the next year.

Japs Concentrate Okinawa Defense In Besieged Shuri

GUAM, May 26 (UP)—Japanese defenses on southern Okinawa appeared to be wearing thin today in every sector except formidable Shuri.

United Press front dispatches said U. S. marines advanced 500 yards inside rubbled Naha, capturing a sixth of the city. Japanese appeared to be abandoning Naha for a final death stand at Shuri.

Correspondent E. G. Valens reported from Okinawa that enemy resistance was "thinning out" on both sides of besieged Shuri, core of Japanese strength. Enemy troop movements from Naha to Shuri have been signed.

Organized resistance has collapsed south of Yonabaru on the eastern end of the line, but mud prevented Seventh division troops from scoring big gains.

Valens said there were "many strong points" on the southern tip of Okinawa below the Shuri defenses, but that they did not appear to be bunched together in a solid line.

Enemy artillery fire had diminished, Valens said, "with a consequent raising of morale of American troops on the middle and eastern end of our lines."

Japs Wage Fierce Fight To Escape Trap On Tarakan

MANILA, May 26 (UP)—Savage fighting raged today on Tarakan island off Borneo as trapped Japanese troops counter-attacked with spears and rolled artillery shells down hills on the heads of allied soldiers.

The Japanese, compressed in the central hills of the island, were fighting their most primitive and desperate sort of battle against Australian and Dutch troops. The conquest of Tarakan was virtually complete, with all the island's major installations in allied hands.

In the Philippines native troops took the lead in fighting to liberate their homeland by scoring notable gains on the east coast of Luzon. Guerrillas, now fighting as the Philippine army, took Infanta, 44 miles east of Manila, and nearby Misau. The entire Dinahican peninsula was in their hands.

Truman, Hoover To Confer on Food Crisis In Europe

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—The White House announced today that President Truman had invited former President Herbert Hoover to the White House for a conference Monday on the food situation in Europe.

White House press secretary Charles G. Ross said Hoover had accepted the invitation. Ross said the president felt "that Mr. Hoover had information which would be valuable to him."

Hoover was chairman of a commission for relief in Belgium from 1915 to 1919 and during two years of this time—from 1917 to the middle of 1919—he was food administrator for this country.

Nurse Draft Plan Abandoned by Army

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP)—The war department today officially abandoned the idea of drafting nurses.

Undersecretary of War Robert F. Patterson said today the department has decided to drop its fight for the bill because of "the rapidly changing circumstances of the past six weeks."