

# Japs Abandon Doomed Stronghold

See Columns 1 and 2

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

## La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
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ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, MAY 28, 1945

FIVE CENTS

### Naval Guns Blast Enemy Columns in Flight From Shuri

By United Press

The British radio reported today that some of Britain's biggest warships are on their way to the Pacific, and soon the cream of the Royal navy's battle forces will be there.

GUAM, Tuesday, May 29 (UP)—Japanese troops have been sighted moving southward from Shuri in what may prove to be the beginning of a general withdrawal of enemy forces from the main bastion of their Okinawa defense line, it was disclosed today.

American naval gunfire broke up two or more columns of about 1,500 troops each when they pulled out of the besieged Shuri fortifications. Front dispatches said it appeared additional Japanese have abandoned the city. Marine fighter pilots also strafed the enemy columns.

Virtually every escape route from Shuri has been cut off, United Press war correspondent Edward Thomas reported. The seventh division, through a series of adroit maneuvers, gained strategic control of practically all high ground paralleling the Konuba river valley.

"For all practical purposes," Thomas said, "the part of Okinawa we came thousands of miles to get is already ours, although the slow battle of attrition on the southern tip against rain, mud and Japanese probably will go on for several weeks before the last vestige of organized resistance is broken."

Guns of U. S. battleships and cruisers were prepared to lay down a barrage against enemy units pulling out of Shuri from a stand south of the city.

#### New Defense Blocked

An American column, slashing down the east coast against meager resistance, outflanked a potential new Japanese defense line in hilly terrain south of the Kokuba river valley.

The column secured a 300-foot escarpment overlooking the beaches of southern Okinawa after killing perhaps 2,000 Japanese in a three-day battle, then smashed on another 2,500 yards to Ogusuku town, two and a half miles south of the port of Yonabaru.

(A Japanese Domei dispatch recorded by the FCC said Japanese suicide planes sank an allied battleship, two cruisers and three large transports and torpedoed five other vessels in Nakagusuku bay on the east coast of Okinawa early today. Twelve other allied vessels were said to have been sunk or damaged in Okinawa waters Saturday.)

#### Naha Hold Is Extended

On the west coast, marines of the sixth division drove another 800 yards through the rubble of Naha, capital of Okinawa, and broadened their bridgehead across the Asato river inside the city almost to the shores of the East China sea.

The marines also threw a fifth bridge across the Asato and were pouring reinforcements of men, guns, tanks and supplies into the heart of the capital. The Japanese were putting up only rear guard resistance, apparently resigned to abandoning it for high or ground farther south.

#### Poppy Sales of VFW Bring \$442

The Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary today reported that \$442.96 was realized from the sale of 4600 poppies Friday and Saturday. Twenty women worked on the sales.

All money from these sales is used in the veterans hospitals, for rehabilitation of disabled war veterans, for the families and children of the disabled and war dead and for the upkeep of the national home.

#### Friends Here Hear From Jap Prisoner

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Christensen received a message broadcast to them by Larry Quille, former La Grande resident, from a prisoner of war camp, Tokyo. The message, intercepted by the provost marshal in Washington, D. C., and forwarded to the Christensens, contained personal messages which verified it as being direct from Quille.

He sent his regards to the John Clarks, with whom he made his home while in La Grande, to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Walden and the Stornes and to other La Grande friends.

### Japs Cornered In Philippines Fight Battle of Survival

MANILA, May 28 (UP)—The Philippines are secure today, four months after Gen. Douglas MacArthur's triumphant return to Manila. But the dirty job of mopping up goes on, and American soldiers probably will be fighting and dying on these islands as long as the war lasts.

American and Filipino armies control 95 per cent of all the usable ports, towns, airfields, highways and agricultural centers in the islands.

But bitter fighting rages night and day on four main fronts, and there are few places in the sprawling archipelago where a white man can wander unarmed in safety.

#### Big Force Hemmed In

The biggest and toughest core of Japanese resistance remaining today is in northern Luzon. There possibly 30,000 enemy troops are firmly in control of the entire See CORNERED . . . Page 5

### Two Nazi Leaders Follow Himmler In Poison Deaths

LONDON, May 28 (UP)—Two more Nazi bigwigs, one of them the successor to Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering as commander of the German air force, were dead by their own hands today.

A third, Albert (Little Hitler) Forster, who as galleiter of Danzig paved the way for German occupation of the Polish corridor in 1939, surrendered peacefully to a British lieutenant and a sergeant in Hamburg.

In Forster's pocket was found a poison pill similar to the one with which Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler killed himself.

The two latest Nazis to follow Himmler in suicide were Marshal Robert Ritter von Greim, who succeeded Goering as commander of the Luftwaffe April 26 and Dr. Hugo Jury, galleiter of lower Austria and former social welfare minister in the notorious Seyss-Inquart government of Austria.

Hitler's Sisters Nabbed

Also caught up in the allied net were two married sisters of Adolf Hitler and a brother of Himmler. The sisters, found in the Bavarian Alps, were identified as Angela Hammitzsch, 61, of Altmuenster, Austria, and Paula Wolf, 48.

Himmler's brother otherwise unidentified, was arrested by the British second army in northwest Germany.

General Surrenders

From Rome came word that Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, German commander in the southwest, finally was taken into custody.

SBC broadcast said other German soldiers still at large in the Chemnitz sector of southern Germany were fighting something like a civil war with civilians in the area.

The troops were said to be plundering towns and villages for food and supplies after being refused permission to cross into the American-held area as prisoners.

# Vast U. S. Navy Increase Revealed Chinese Rout Nip Kwang sai Forces

## Warships To Bridge Pacific

(Copyright 1945 by United Press)

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—The U. S. navy is building an additional 20,000 warships to give it a total of 127,000 ships of all types to complete the final phase of the second world war.

This gigantic number of ships would be sufficient if placed end to end to make a virtually unbroken bridge from San Francisco to Yokohama, Japan.

It will provide the vast armadas for the invasions of China and the Japanese homeland—some 5,000 miles from American shores.

#### 271 Fighting Units

A United Press survey found that the navy now has under construction 10,882 warships, including 271 frontline fighting ships and 16,093 landing craft.

Ships now under construction include two battleships, 15 aircraft carriers, 30 escort carriers, 47 cruisers, 104 destroyers and six destroyer escorts.

When completed they will give the navy this unprecedented array of mighty sea power, minus any future losses:

- 25 Battleships.
- 41 Aircraft carriers.
- 93 Escort carriers.
- 114 Cruisers.
- 490 Destroyers.
- 371 Destroyer escorts.

107,336 Now in Service

The navy revealed last week that it already has 107,336 ships, aggregating some 15,000,000 tons, operating in all waters. Of these 100,000 joined the fleet since Pearl Harbor, including 1,150 combat craft.

There were only 338 combat vessels before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Most announced naval losses to date—309 vessels—have been in this category.

At least 200 of the combat ships now being built will be completed before the end of the year. Unless military leaders change their plans the commission will complete its schedule—7,000,000 more tons after June 1—by the end of the year.

## Munitions Given British Priority

LONDON, May 28 (UP)—Munitions for the Far Eastern war were given the No. 1 priority today in the labor supply program.

Munitions had been subordinated in allocating workers for housing, a prime requisite in bomb-torn cities, but the new order placed them back on top.

Civilian industries for both home and export were made No. 3 behind munitions and housing in the labor priorities list.

## Baseball Results

By United Press

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Brooklyn	3 3 2
Chicago	5 10 0
Hathaway, King and Sukeforth; Derringer and Rice.	
New York at Pittsburgh (completion of unfinished game of yesterday).	
New York	5 13 1
Pittsburgh	11 15 3
Fischer, Adams (6), Pyle (8) and Berres, Lombardi (7); Gebauer, Rescigno (5) and Lopez.	
Chicago	5 15 2
Boston	6 11 1
Grove and Tresh; Cecil, Hyatt, V. Johnson, Barrett and Garbark; Walters.	



ON SPECIAL MISSIONS FOR PRESIDENT—Harry L. Hopkins, above, long a close confidant of President Roosevelt, and Joseph E. Davis, former ambassador to Russia, in Moscow and London, respectively, as special envoys of President Truman in matters presumably involving relationships among the Big Three.

## Levantines, French Clash in Near East

LONDON, May 28 (UP)—Dispatches from the Levant today reported bloody skirmishing between the French and natives at Homs and Hama, with an unspecified number of casualties on both sides.

The tension in Syria and Lebanon exploded in violence, according to Beyrouth advices, coincident with a report in diplomatic quarters here that President Truman might be called upon to mediate the dispute.

Damascus reports relayed through Beyrouth said telephone lines to both Homs and Hama had been cut, and details of the bloodshed were lacking.

The crisis stemmed from France's reinforcement of her garrisons in Syria and Lebanon in what the governments of the two Arab states denounced as a violation of their independence.

House members recently voted \$2,500 expense accounts for themselves, and the senate is now arguing over whether to follow suit.

Sen. Scott Lucas, D. Ill., asserted that "any way you figure it, the \$2,500 is additional salary."

He said he couldn't see how the senators could do this and "not break the little steel formula."

Sen. John H. Overton, D. La., author of the measure, refused "to yield to that argument."

"What about the \$100,000,000 we voted for expenses of government?" he said. "You'll vote the \$100 million because you gain favor with tens of thousands of employees but you won't vote for our expense accounts when you vote money for 96 senators, you only impress yourselves."

The appropriations committee earlier agreed on a new plan for giving the senators the \$2,500 expense accounts.

## Truman Seeks Increase In Jobless Pay

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—President Truman today urged congress to close what he described as a major gap in the reconversion program—"the lack of adequate benefits for workers temporarily unemployed during the transition from war to peace."

He proposed that congress act at once to assure war workers, through supplementation of state unemployment benefits, of 26 weeks of payments in any one year if they are jobless that long. He proposed at least \$25 a week for unemployed workers with dependents.

Wider Benefits Sought

He also recommended specifically that congress take emergency action to widen the coverage of unemployment compensation and to increase the amount and duration of benefits—at least for the duration of the emergency period of reconversion, and extend unemployment compensation coverage to include federal employees, maritime workers and other workers not now insured.

"These provisions are essential for the orderly reconversion of our wartime economy to peacetime production," he said. "They are badly needed for the duration of the reconversion emergency . . . As a bulwark against post-war deflation."

The president also said he assumed that congress would deal soon with the broader question of expanding and improving the social security program.

Meanwhile, other administrative actions are being taken. See INCREASED . . . Page 5

## Youths of Five Counties Enter Livestock Show

Members of 4-H clubs and Future Farmer chapters in five counties will exhibit swine, cattle and lambs Friday and Saturday at a show and auction in Union sponsored by the Eastern Oregon livestock show association.

Approximately 60 head of steers, 40 hogs and 65 lambs will be exhibited in competition for various cash awards, and will go into the auction ring Saturday afternoon.

Exhibitors from Union, Willows, Baker, Gilliam and Umatilla counties will vie for approximately \$200 in cash prizes offered by the show management and a special swine award of \$75.00 for the champion purebred sow, provided it is a Duroc Jersey.

D. E. Richards will be in charge of all livestock exhibits. See YOUTHIS . . . Page 5

## Sen. Bridges Dares Colleagues To Vote Against House "Expense" Fund

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—Sen. Styles Bridges, R. N. H., today dared his colleagues to vote against \$2,500 expense accounts for senators now and accept them later on if pending legislation is enacted.

Bridges observed that he'd "like to have read in the United States senate the names of every senator who votes against this—and then accept it."

House members recently voted \$2,500 expense accounts for themselves, and the senate is now arguing over whether to follow suit.

Sen. Scott Lucas, D. Ill., asserted that "any way you figure it, the \$2,500 is additional salary."

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PLAN TOKYO DEVASTATION—Directing the raids of B-29s which have destroyed a large part of Tokyo. Maj. Gen. Curtis E. Lemay, left, commanding general of the 21st bomber command, plans further details with his chief of staff, Brig. Gen. A. W. Kissner at a superfortress base in the Marianas.

## German Prisoners Would Join Allies In Fighting Japs

LONDON, May 28 (UP)—The Evening Standard said today that 700 surrendered SS prisoners in Lambach, Austria, have formally petitioned the third army colonel commanding their camp to be allowed to join the American army so they can fight the Japanese.

Their request was refused.

## La Grande, Union On Honor Roll in Traffic Safety

Reductions in the number of traffic accidents during the first three months of 1945 put La Grande second in its population class and Union third in its class in the Oregon cities traffic safety contest.

Reports from the office of the secretary of state today show Grants Pass first among the cities of 5,000 to 10,000 population, La Grande second and Coos Bay third.

The rating is based upon current accident experience as compared with that of the previous three-year average.

Other cities are rated as follows: Cities 10,000 and over, Klamath Falls, Medford and Astoria, in the order named; 2,500 to 5,000 population, Dallas, Toledo and Tillamook, and 1,000 to 2,500, Myrtle Point, Bandon and Union.

## Heavy Jap Losses To U. S. Subs Told

GUAM, May 28 (UP)—American submarines have sunk 4,000,000 tons of shipping on the ocean that is "anything but a Pacific one for the Japanese navy and the Japanese merchant fleet."

"You have met the enemy, and he is yours," Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said yesterday to 14 submarine men whom he decorated after revealing the latest figures on enemy losses.

Nimitz said that from Dec. 7, 1941, to May 5, 1944, American submarines have sunk 136 Japanese warships, including four carriers, 17 cruisers, and 53 destroyers. All told, submarines have accounted for 1,119 enemy ships of all kinds.

## War on Income Tax Evaders Planned

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP)—Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, jr., announced today internal revenue bureau personnel will be increased by 10,000 to combat what he called "shocking violations" of the internal revenue laws.

He said he will ask for \$50,000,000 to finance the drive.

Last week Morgenthau said he was asking for an additional 5,000 men to work in the treasury's drive against war-rich income tax evaders. Today, however, he said there was need for even more men to run down tax violators.

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m. Temperature: Maximum 71 Minimum 44

Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Tuesday; probably showers.

## Southern Lifeline Severed

CHUNG KING, May 28 (UP)—Japanese troops were reported in headlong flight from southern Kwangsi province today after abandoning the inland treaty port of Nanning and a 50-mile stretch of the continental railway line supplying their armies in French Indo-China.

Front dispatches from Kwangsi said Chinese forces had split Japanese defenses along the railway line, driving part of the enemy force southward toward the Indo-China border and the rest north toward the former American air base at Lieuchow.

Nanning itself and the big American air field outside the city fell to the Chinese Sunday morning after a surprise attack launched from the Yu river base of Posh, 130 miles to the northwest. Nanning was taken by the Japanese last November during an eight-month campaign to open a corridor from Korea to Singapore.

Advance 50 Miles

Scattered Japanese units still were being mopped up in the Nanning area today, but the main Chinese force already had driven 50 miles northward to attack Pinyang, 80 miles south of Lieuchow.

Another Chinese column drove within 50 miles west of Kuichow, opening a direct assault on Ishan, the fall of which would cut off another big segment of the Japanese-held railway system linking central and northern China to French Indo-China.

Other Chinese troops also were threatening to cut the corridor at Hengyang in western Hunan province, 250 miles north of Canton, as the result of hurried Japanese withdrawals.

## Plans for Aviation In Post-war Era Told to Clubmen

Dr. W. M. Peare, member of the Oregon state board of aeronautics, and member of the Civil Air patrol, was the principal speaker at the Lions club regular weekly luncheon meeting held today at the Stein cafe banquet room.

Dr. Peare spoke of the possibilities of future aviation in Oregon and enumerated many of the items already accomplished by the state board, the second in the nation to be activated, having been organized in 1921.

Federal Aid Sought

He said that through the efforts of various state aeronautics committees there is now before congress a bill to appropriate funds for underwriting a portion of the cost of constructing fields. See PLANS . . . Page 3

## Battle of Atlantic Brought to Close

LONDON, May 28 (UP)—The battle of the Atlantic officially was proclaimed at an end tonight when the British admiralty announced that ships routed through non-combat areas no longer will be required to travel in convoy or to black out.

The new ruling became effective at midnight tonight, double British summer time (3 p. m. PWT).

"Ships that would have sailed in trade convoys in no-combat areas will be sailed independently," the announcement said. "By night they will burn navigation lights at full brilliancy and need not darken ship."

## Cove Girl Wins 4-H Scholarship

Verna Toole, a member of the 1945 graduating class of Cove high school, has been awarded the Union Pacific Cary Raymond Gray scholarship to Oregon State college for being the outstanding 4-H club member in Union county in 1944. John Vann of Cove was chosen as the alternate.

Awards were announced by Joseph Jarvis, agricultural agent of the railroad in Omaha.

Miss Toole has been in 4-H club work for nine years and has done outstanding work in home economics. She plans to enter college in the fall. Vann's four years of club work have been in agriculture. He was the winner of the "Feed a Fighter" contest in Union county last year.

War on Income Tax Evaders Planned