

Yanks Capture Capital of Okinawa

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A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

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FIVE CENTS

Superforts Devastate Yokohama

250,000 Are Left Homeless

GUAM, May 30 (UP)—American Superfortresses destroyed 60,000 houses, left 250,000 persons homeless and virtually isolated Yokohama from the rest of Japan in yesterday's disastrous raid, Japanese broadcasts reported.

Radio Tokyo said hundreds of doctors and nurses were being rushed into the stricken city from outlying districts and from Tokyo, 18 miles to the north.

Half of Tokyo in Ruins
The broadcast came on the heels of a 21st bomber command announcement that 51 square miles—nearly half—of Tokyo has been destroyed in 24 major American B-29 raids. In the last two attacks alone last Thursday and Saturday, 18.6 square miles were burned to the ground, including most of central Tokyo.

Maj. Gen. Curtis E. Lemay, chief of the 21st command, said "If the Japs persist in keeping on with this war, I promise they have nothing more to look forward to than complete destruction of their cities."

Lemay said the B-29s destroyed all the urban area of Tokyo they had set out to destroy and there was "very little left" of the capital. Reconnaissance photographs showed that 46 per cent of the built-up area of what once was the world's third largest city is in ruins.

Kawasaki, Tokyo Hit
Details of the destruction wrought by 450 B-29s with 3,200 tons of fire bombs yesterday in Yokohama, Japan's second port and fifth largest city, were given by Tadao Okada, Japanese welfare minister.

In addition to the 60,000 houses destroyed in Yokohama, Okada said, the Superfortresses also damaged Kawasaki, just north of the port, and portions of metropolitan Tokyo.

Another Tokyo broadcast indicated that all communications and most transportation linking Yokohama with the rest of Japan had been broken.

Yank Units Join For Drive on Japs In Northern Luzon

MANILA, May 30 (UP)—Two American divisions joined forces today for a drive into the Cagayan valley of northern Luzon to crush the last major Japanese garrison in the Philippines.

The 25th and 32nd divisions linked up along the Villa Verde trail flanking the main highway into the Cagayan valley after smashing the last organized enemy resistance in the mountains to the east.

The area, only 35 miles in from the Lingayen beaches invaded by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces last Jan. 9, had been the scene of probably the bitterest fighting of the entire Luzon campaign.

Ahead of the two divisions in the Cagayan valley lay an estimated 30,000 Japanese, the only sizeable enemy force remaining in the Philippines. Without hope of escape, they probably will fight to the death.

Price Control for Five Years Seen

WASHINGTON, May 30 (UP)—Food price controls probably will have to be kept until 1950, Chairman Robert F. Wagner, D-N. Y., of the senate banking committee said today.

He told reporters after an executive session with OPA chief Chester Bowles and Economic Stabilizer William H. Davis that food price controls definitely will outlast the war with Japan.

Gestapo Guards Are Executed as War Criminals

LONDON, May 30 (UP)—A Copenhagen dispatch said today that 50 German Gestapo guards from the Troeslev concentration camp in Denmark had been tried by an allied military court and executed.

The report was the first indication that the western allies have begun the trial of Nazi war criminals. Copenhagen said the trial of the Gestapo guards was held at Flensburg, north Germany seat of the short-lived Doenitz surrender government.

Another accused Nazi war criminal, William (Lord Haw Haw) Joyce, the renegade Briton who turned radio propagandist for the Germans, is expected to be brought to London soon from Germany to face trial for his life.

War, Depression Can Be Controlled, Asserts Vinson

WASHINGTON, May 30 (UP)—War Mobilization Director Fred M. Vinson today called on Americans "once and for all" to rout out of their thinking that wars and depressions are beyond their control.

In a Memorial Day address at Arlington national cemetery he declared:

"These great catastrophes were not 'acts of God'!"

"They were caused by man, by man-made institutions, by the way in which man has organized his society," he asserted, adding that "what man has made, man can change."

The homage "we pay our dead here today," he said, "will be a mockery unless we use to the utmost the opportunity for which they fought and died."

Vinson asserted that "there will be something wrong with mankind, if we allow wars and depressions to return with clock-like regularity as of old."

In peace, he said, the nation must create a new prosperity and a greater opportunity for jobs than has existed before.

"A job for every man and woman who wants to work," he said, "would constitute a good beginning to the fulfillment of the four freedoms and to the prevention of war."

Mystery Shrouds Disappearance of Van Petten Plane

An extensive search of the air route from northern Idaho to east-central Oregon was under way today for the private plane of Frank Van Petten, Ontario and La Grande lumberman, which disappeared while on a return flight from Northern Idaho Sunday evening.

Civil air patrol units in Ontario, and Boise, Nampa and Caldwell, Idaho, were in the air yesterday and today carefully scanning the rugged mountainous country, but at a late hour no word of the missing plane had been received in La Grande. The local unit of the CAP also was standing by for a possible call to assist in the search.

Van Petten and Charles P. Flegal, Ontario real estate man, went to Yellowstone, Idaho, on a business trip, with Van Petten as pilot. They were last heard a short time after leaving the Yellowstone air field.

Circumstances surrounding the disappearance of the plane have caused considerable speculation as the ship was equipped with two-way radio. The fact that no distress message was received by any receiving station leads to the fact that the plane crashed without warning, and the pilot had no chance to call for help or give his position.

French Bomb Damascus as Natives Riot

BEYROUTH, May 30 (UP)—Reports from Damascus said French planes bombed the Syrian capital today and "many" were killed or wounded in violent fighting around the parliament building and French barracks.

French planes bombed Hama early today. One plane was shot down, probably by small arms fire. The situation at Homs was reported quiet, but authorities feared the violence would spread further when word of the Damascus fighting gets around.

(Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the house of commons that the British government had taken the initiative in trying to improve the situation in Syria and Lebanon. He said he wanted to see the results before reporting on the British move.)

Anglo-American sources said French troops blasted away into the Syrian parliament building at Damascus. Other reports told of bitter struggles in several quarters of the ancient capital.

French guns shelling Damascus were reported to have damaged the parliament building, government house and the Orient palace hotel.

Armed civilians stormed French barracks at Damascus. A French official said French troops had been instructed not to attack the population unless provoked, but once fired on they must strike hard, crush any opposition, and restore order.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30 (UP)—The French delegation to the United Nations conference said today it had been informed that the Mosul oil pipeline connecting the Euphrates river basin with the Mediterranean port of Haifa in Palestine has been cut on Palestinian territory, interrupting crude oil deliveries to the British fleet refueling base at Haifa.

The delegation cited the report as evidence that the Arab nationalist opposition and sabotage has spread beyond Syria.

Trusteeships Are Snag to Progress On Security Pact

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30 (UP)—A United Nations conference commission began public consideration of the first draft of a section of the proposed world organization charter today while the big powers wrestled with new troubles over trusteeships.

A committee report recommending proposed drafts on those sections of the charter dealing with the structure and procedures of the general assembly was submitted to the general assembly commission in a public session.

The committee reported that it had completed consideration of all sections of the charter assigned to it, but that there are still pending a number of points on which it must withhold action until other committees deal with related matters.

The new snag on the trusteeship problem came as the "little" United Nations chalked up two victories against the big five.

Soviet Russia demanded elimination from the proposed trusteeship formula of an entire section which it fears will "freeze" the present peoples in their present status.

Moscow's trusteeship instructions to the Soviet delegation revealed only one other substantial TRUSTEESHIPS... Page 6

Fewer Closures of U. S. Forests Planned

PORTLAND, May 30 (UP)—Federal forest lands in Oregon this year will have fewer complete fire-season closures than in other years.



FROM ALL OF US—The world is girded with graves of American boys who gave their lives in defense of democracy. Though we at home cannot decorate their resting places this Memorial Day, we can honor them in our hearts and work for them with our hands, the quicker to bring a victorious conclusion to the great battle they so bravely began.

Men Who Died for Country Receive Nation's Homage

La Grande today laid aside worldly affairs to pay reverent homage to the heroes of America's wars, and to tacitly pledge herself to the last ounce of effort to bring the conflict with Japan to an early and victorious end.

Notable in the 1945 observance of Memorial Day was the absence of the "boys in blue" who conceived the event in 1863 in honor of their comrades who laid down their lives in the long struggle between the states. They also were absent from the ceremonies in most places throughout the land, for the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic have now thinned to a total of 240 veterans of that memorable war, and most of them are past the age where they can take an active part in such affairs.

But in their accustomed places in the parade and at memorial rites in the Masonic cemetery were a veteran of 1898, 1917-18 and a scattering few who have returned from the battle fronts of World War II.

Various patriotic groups that have grown out of the nation's four great armed conflicts assembled at mid-morning to march solemnly before their fellow citizens, later to assemble in the cemetery where ritualistic ceremonies were conducted by the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, as a tribute to those who through the years have given their lives in their country's cause.

Thousands Needed For Navy Repairs

WASHINGTON, May 30 (UP)—Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal revealed today that the continual damage to American surface ships in Pacific operations has brought about an urgent need for 15,000 skilled ship repair workers on the west coast.

He told a press conference latest naval casualty figures for the Okinawa operation from March 15 to May 23 showed 4,270 navy personnel killed and missing.

This, Forrestal said, was an indication of the extent of ship damage suffered in that operation.

The most desperate need for workers is in trades such as electrician, sheet metal workers and machinists, the secretary said.

Cove School Head Takes New Post

COVE, May 30 (Special)—Announcement that Harry Dawson, who has been superintendent and principal of the Cove school for the past two years, will be principal of the union high school at Yamhill during the coming school year was made here yesterday.

Yanks Decorate Buddies' Graves on Bloody Okinawa

7th DIVISION CEMETERY, Okinawa, May 30 (UP)—While raindrops splattered into mud puddles scattered among rows of white crosses and green spring fern that mark the spot where American dead lie, Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, commanding general of the 7th division, in a Memorial Day ceremony today said "it is for us who are honored in calling them our comrades to carry on the cause for which they died."

Surrounded by chaplains of all religions and by Red Cross workers, officers and enlisted men of all services, Buckner read his address and then placed a wreath on the cross marking the grave of an American sailor brought ashore and buried here beside the dead of the 7th division.

Catholic, protestant and Jewish services were held at all cemeteries after Buckner's address. Every grave in Okinawa's many cemeteries was marked by some floral piece in accordance with the wishes of Buckner.

Buckner said "that while the 19th army is still fighting the battle to keep alive the institutions of our homeland, we gather here to commemorate our comrades whose lives have ended gloriously on the field of honor."

"Whatever may be a man's creed or form of worship when he died for a principle, he displayed quality upon which all religions are built," he said.

Accused Slayer Freed on Bond

Albert Forrest Bowman, 28, today is at liberty on bond while pending trial set for June 4 on an indictment charging him with the murder of his father, Albert F. Bowman.

Bowman was released yesterday by Circuit Judge R. J. Green after members of his family provided property bond and cash bail to the amount of \$7,000 which had previously been set by the court.

Property bond of \$3,000 provided by Bowman's mother, his sister, Mrs. Evelyn Dickinson and his brother, Quentin Bowman, was accepted by the court, and the mother provided the additional \$4,000 in cash.

Fall of Naha Speeds Final Phase of Long Campaign for Island

GUAM, May 30 (UP)—Marines of the tenth army drove southeast from the captured Okinawan capital of Naha toward the mouth of the Kokuba river today and were within 3,000 yards of encircling the partially occupied citadel of Shuri in the center of the crumbling Japanese line.

The 60-day-old Okinawa campaign—extending from Easter Sunday to Memorial Day—was entering what may be its final phase.

Sixth marine division patrols neared the Kokuba river at the tip of Naha harbor and well southeast of the ruined capital city, while first division leathernecks stormed ancient Shuri castle, in the heart of the enemy's main defense point.

The seventh army division worked through the Mamizato and Tera districts south of Shuri, drawing a noose about the Japanese left in the battered fortress.

A front dispatch from United Press war correspondent E. G. Valens said the last 25,000 to 35,000 Japanese in southern Okinawa appeared to be breaking up and soon should be split into disorganized or at least only semi-organized pockets.

Marines of the first division broke into Shuri, keystone and central anchor of the shattered Japanese defense line across the southern tip of Okinawa, in a surprise attack from the west yesterday.

The marines advanced 1,100 yards in three hours to the walls of the shell-battered, 15th century Shuri castle until mid-morning yesterday Japanese army headquarters and strongest position on Okinawa.

Other elements of the first marine division, along with units of the 77th, 98th and seventh army divisions, still were stalled by mud and now-isolated Japanese pockets northwest, north, northeast, east and southeast of Shuri.

Jap Premier Says Okinawa Battle Will Decide War

SAN FRANCISCO, May 30 (UP)—Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki told the imperial Japanese cabinet today the battle of Okinawa is the deciding battle of this war, radio Tokyo announced.

The broadcast, recorded by United Press in San Francisco, said the statement was made as the entire cabinet convened with senior statesmen to obtain "complete coordination with the strategy of the Japanese forces on Okinawa."

"Our hopes and determination to win this war are anchored solely on the actions of the fighting situation on Okinawa," the prime minister said.

"Now is the moment when our thoughts and hopes as a nation must stand up in complete coordination with the strategy of the Japanese forces on Okinawa. The battle of Okinawa is the See OKINAWA... Page 6

County War Bond Sales Hit 30 Percent of Quota

Seventh war loan workers throughout Union county are urging a vigorous campaign to meet the unusually large quota of \$964,000, and with half the campaign period behind them they have sold slightly less than 30 per cent of their quota.

This was announced yesterday by W. C. Perkins, war finance committee chairman, who said that tabulations of sales through Monday showed an aggregate of \$286,146 in sales of all types of bonds. Of the total, \$216,118 was in E bonds. Both figures are slightly below 30 percent of the respective quotas.

However, the county's percentage of sales is higher than that for the state, which was announced yesterday as 22 percent at the close of business Monday.

To yesterday morning sales throughout the state aggregated \$24,218,123, against a quota of \$110,000,000.

Some of the community leaders who are active in the Union county campaign follow:

ALICEL—Community leader, Mrs. Ray Fuller; neighborhood leaders, Mrs. S. G. Ruckman, Tom Walsinger, jr., and Robert Kinne.

COVE—Community leaders: See WAR BOND... Page 3

Allied Control Board Soon to Govern Germany

LONDON, May 30 (UP)—The Moscow radio said today that an allied control commission will be established in Germany within a few days.

LONDON, May 30 (UP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden voiced in commons today a hope that obstacles soon would be removed so that an allied commission can be established in Vienna.

Eden reiterated that the British government refuses to recognize the Austrian provisional government of Dr. Karl Renner, established after the Russians captured Vienna. The United States also has refused to recognize the Renner government.

He gave no hint of what the obstacles are, but his emphasis on the commission in Vienna suggested that this might be a main point of dispute.

College Graduates Get School Posts

Lyle H. Johnson, registrar and director of placement of Eastern Oregon college, today announced most of the teacher training students who will be graduated this week have been placed in positions in Oregon schools. He announced the following placements:

Shirley Coleman, 3rd and 4th grades, Adams; Lois Davidson, 3rd grade, Stanfield; Kenneth Eshelman, upper grades, Hurley, Idaho; Carol George, intermediate grades, Portland; Betty Kight, 5th and 6th grades, Milton; Patty Jean Leonard, 4th and 5th grades, Haines; Emily Otis, 7th and 8th grades, Milton; Marion Snider, junior and senior high art, Penjelton; Helen Tippin, 2nd and 3rd grades, Helix; Dorothy Wallis, 1st and 2nd grades, Helix; Nina Wells, 4th grade, Stanfield, and Guy Yurnell, 7th and 8th grades, Boardman.

Utah to Execute Hammer Slayer

VERNAL, Utah, May 30 (UP)—James Joseph Roedel, 27-year-old twice-convicted hammer slayer, has been sentenced to die before a Utah state prison firing squad on Friday the 13th of July.

The gaunt former Oklahoma state mental patient, twice has been sentenced to die for the Oct. 12, 1942, hammer killing of Agnes Abigail Williams of San Leandro, Calif. Previously, he was granted a reprieve by Gov. Herbert B. Maw. He was captured near Olympia, Wash.

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m.
Temperatures:
Maximum 84
Minimum 51
Precipitation .06
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday, probable showers.