

Enemy Flight From Okinawa Balked

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

La Grande Evening Observer

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 4, 1945 FIVE CENTS

Borneo Base of Enemy Attacked

Buyers Pay Fancy Prices for Stock Produced by 4-H and Future Farmer Youngsters

Union county 4-H club members carried off a majority of the top awards in the livestock show and sale conducted Friday and Saturday in Union under the auspices of the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show association, at which their stock brought prices well above the going market quotations.

Lions Are Told of Plans For Army Show On June 15

Capt. C. M. McIntyre of the United States army spoke in behalf of the 7th war loan and the army demonstration unit "This is Your Infantry," which will be presented in La Grande on June 15th, at the Lions club luncheon today in the Stein cafe banquet room.

He said 80 officers and men comprise the demonstration unit to visit here to promote sale of 7th war loan bonds. A 28-piece band and a 39-man combat squad will put on the demonstration, which will show the use of the modern infantry group. An exhibit of the weapons will be staged in the business section of the city from 10 a. m. until 4 p. m. on June 15; a special retreat service in honor of National Infantry day will be held at the college.

Veteran Is Visitor
Sgt. Samuel N. Shorb, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Shorb, also was a featured speaker. He told of his experiences on 35 combat missions over Europe as gunner on a B-17 bomber. He told of a typical day in the life of the bomber crew.

President Horace F. Nelson announced LIONS ... Page 5

Allied Group Meets To Map Control Of Captured Reich

PARIS, June 4 (UP)—The four-power allied control commission, which will decide how Germany is to be occupied, was expected to hold its first meeting today in or near Berlin.

(Radio Paris said that the first meeting of the commission was held in Berlin yesterday. "The first task of the commission is to draw boundaries of the various occupation zones," said the broadcast, heard by the FCC.)

Britain Planned Sea of Flame to Prevent Invasion

LONDON, June 4 (UP)—Britain was ready to pump oil into the sea and turn the English channel into a vast inferno in event of a German invasion attempt, it can be revealed now.

When invasion became a definite possibility, huge, camouflaged oil reserves were built hurriedly along the south and southeast coasts. Pipes ran from the reservoirs to the shore and then out to sea for a considerable distance.

Both the tanks and pipes were encased in brickwork and concrete as protection against the Luftwaffe which was making daily strafing attacks along the coast at the time.

Water Service to Be Shut Off on Four City Streets

City Manager Ed H. Ford announced today that water service will be shut off for four hours on several streets in the city tomorrow while new mains are being connected.

Beginning at 9 a. m. there will be no service to houses on the following streets:
Eight street from Washington to N avenue.
Ninth street from Washington to M avenue.
Tenth street from M to N avenue.
N avenue from Eighth street to Washington avenue.

State Guard to Get Uniforms at Session Tonight

Members of the La Grande unit of the Oregon state guard will receive uniforms, rifles and other equipment when they meet at 8 o'clock this evening in the armory.

Capt. J. L. Gregory, company commander, announced a large shipment received today from the war department will provide the guards with their first official uniforms and arms since the company was organized, and he urged that all members be on hand to receive their allotments.

He said that in addition to personal equipment for the company, the shipment includes tents and other paraphernalia.

With the arrival of the rifles, pistols and ammunition, Capt. Gregory said plans will be made for an early visit to the rifle range to give the company an opportunity to become accustomed to the use of the arms.

Jury is Chosen To Try Durham

Selection of a jury to hear habitual criminal charges against George W. Durham was completed before Circuit Judge H. J. Green today and taking of testimony was begun with Sergeant W. A. Foster of the local office of the Oregon state police as the first witness.

Durham is accused of having been convicted of crimes in Oregon and other states so many times that he comes under the Oregon law which says he must spend the remainder of his life in prison.

He also faces a charge of escaping from the Union county jail, but it is being held in abeyance until the present trial is concluded.

Tito Will Fight To Hold Carinthia

LONDON, June 4 (UP)—In a belligerent statement to his countrymen, Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia said today, "Carinthia is ours and we will fight for her."

Radio Belgrade, heard by the BBC, said Tito promised to fight for the Austrian province in a speech to a welcoming committee on his arrival at Celje in Slovenia.

Japs Report Allied Drive On Sandakan

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4 (UP)—The Japanese radio reported today allied ground and sea units were participating in an assault on Sandakan, capital of British north Borneo in the East Indies. There was no confirmation of the report from any allied source.

The Tokyo broadcast, recorded by United Press, quoted a "dispatch from a Borneo base" as saying "the enemy has resumed their attack on the Sandakan area on the eastern coast."

Shore is Bombed
"Enemy warships are reported operating in the nearby waters. Two destroyers moved into Sandakan Bay and bombarded our positions."

"They were immediately put to rout by our garrison forces. Enemy planes also seem to be co-operating with the ground and sea units in this assault."

The enemy broadcast made no reference to a possible landing except in mentioning "ground units."

Sandakan lies on the northern arm of an excellent harbor on the northeast coast of Borneo. It is 180 miles north of the island of Tarakan, invaded by Australian troops and 275 miles south of Puerto Princesa, principal city of the Philippines island of Palawan. Sandakan is approximately 525 miles directly west of Davao, Mindanao.

If allied troops actually are engaged in or preparing for a landing at Sandakan, it would be the first such operation on Borneo proper.

War Training and Food Production Projects Menaced

Discontinuance of the war production training and food production war training classes sponsored by La Grande public schools, which comes as a result of the federal budget slash following V-E day, has brought before the community the problem of the school community cany.

Moyle Anderson, vocational education instructor at the high school, who has been supervisor of the canner project, said today if permanent housing for the state-owned equipment is provided, it will be left in La Grande for use of the entire county, but if not, the machinery will be moved to another city. Other communities in the state have already requested its use, he said.

Cannery Output Large
More than 32,000 cans of fruit and vegetables were processed at the cannery the first summer it operated here. Last summer, when there was little rationing of canned vegetables, 27,000 cans were processed, by 255 families. It was expected by supervisors and workers that with rationing higher again this year that the cannery facilities would be much more in demand, Anderson said.

Citizens of Union county were privileged to take their fruit and vegetables to the cannery for processing, paying only the cost of the cans.

Many Veterans to Return From Pacific

MANILA, June 4 (UP)—Twenty thousand army veterans of the southwest Pacific war and another 7,000 drawn from the central Pacific areas will be on their way home for discharge by the end of June, it was announced today.

Ten thousand Pacific war veterans included 1,300 officers and 15,000 enlisted men.



EMPEROR'S PALACE GROUNDS BOMBED—Numerous buildings within Emperor Hirohito's palace grounds as well as adjacent areas are burned out following two fire raids over Tokyo by more than 1,000 B-29s which dropped 8,500 tons of fire bombs. The emperor's palace is the dark circular area in center and bombed-out palace buildings are shown as light portion at bottom of area. Over 18 square miles of Tokyo were burned out in these two missions. 21st bomber command photo.

Balloon Bomb Attack on U. S. Threatened by Japs

GUAM, June 4 (UP)—Radio Tokyo said today that Japan intends to attack the United States with piloted, bomb-carrying balloons and had converted her entire naval air force into a suicide corps.

Tokyo said Lt. Col. Shozo Nakajima, chief spokesman of Japanese armed forces in the southern regions, predicted that piloted stratosphere balloons will attack the American mainland in the "near future."

The present attacks on the United States with pilotless balloons were only on an experimental score, he said.

"When actual results of the experiment have been obtained," Tokyo said, "large-scale attacks with death-defying Japanese airmen manning the balloons will be launched."

Nakajima complained that the United States had not divulged the extent of damage caused by the pilotless balloons, but surmised they were "creating havoc."

'Suicide' Corps Created
Tokyo said this Japanese naval air force had been converted into a suicide corps to shield the home islands from the rampaging American fleet.

Every navy plane will be ordered to "crash itself against an allied warship," a correspondent of the Tokyo newspaper Mainichi revealed in a radio interview with pilots of the special (suicide) attack corps.

"If this tactic is successful," he said, "victory is assured for Japan. If otherwise, the navy will have many heroes for our shrines."

Halsey is Scornful
Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey, commander of the American third fleet welcomed the enemy announcement and challenged the Japanese to send the remnants of their fleet in a do-or-die "banzai" attack against him.

"I wish they would," he told newsmen aboard his flagship off Okinawa. "They might get their thumbs halfway to their nose—but that's all."

Halsey dismissed the Japanese kamikaze suicide planes as a "damned nuisance rather than a menace" despite the damage they have inflicted on American naval units off Okinawa.

SEERS JOHNSON POST
BOLLYWOOD, June 4 (UP)—Secretary of state undersecretary for the U. S. senate, Seers Johnson, will seek the office now held by veteran Republican William Johnson.

Trapped Japs Take To Small Boats to Escape Annihilation

GUAM, Tuesday, June 5 (UP)—Japanese troops attempted unsuccessfully to escape a dead-or-surrender trap on southern Okinawa by putting out to sea in small boats, it was disclosed today, while five American divisions converged relentlessly on remaining enemy positions.

Small groups of enemy soldiers, some of them naked and carrying only hand grenades, were captured by American patrol craft off the southern tip of the island.

The Japanese troops obviously were trying to escape the beating being administered their disorganized forces by U. S. marines and soldiers, who fanned out along the south coast of the island. The Yanks' objective was the envelopment and annihilation of the last 15,000 to 20,000 Japanese on Okinawa.

The seventh division split the Japanese toe-hold in two in a drive to the southeast coast, on the Pacific slope of the Chinen peninsula.

This push effectively scaled off whatever enemy troops remained on the peninsula, which forms the southern arm of Nakagusuku bay.

From its new positions south of the peninsula, the seventh wheeled both left and right in quick movements designed to eliminate further resistance.

Around the Naha peninsula, massed marines were believed preparing to open their own offensive in the air field area, where the enemy showed signs of holding his positions. There the final battles may be fought on Okinawa.

New, Faster Jap Planes Do Battle With U. S. Airmen

ABOARD ADMIRAL MCCAIN'S FLAGSHIP OFF RYUKYU, June 3 (UP)—(Via Navy Radio)—American carrier pilots returning from strikes against Kyushu reported today they encountered expert Japanese pilots flying new fighter planes that out-performed even the U. S. Corsair.

For the second straight day outstanding enemy pilots flying superior aircraft pounced on planes from Admiral William F. Halsey's third fleet. They collided with our airmen during strikes against air fields on Kyushu, Japan's southernmost home island.

U. S. pilots said the Japanese were meeting Americans now with planes and pilots better than anything our carrier air forces have encountered.

British Move To Prevent Further Strife In Syria

LONDON, June 4 (UP)—Beirut dispatches said today that British troops, reinforced by marines and sailors, were moving from all populated areas of Syria to isolated camps to prevent further bloodshed.

In London, Prime Minister Churchill was expected to reply in common to Gen. Charles de Gaulle's charge that British agents were responsible for the uprising in the Levant.

In Cairo, the Arab league of seven middle-eastern states was meeting today to discuss the crisis. A Cairo dispatch said all delegates were unanimous that the French must withdraw entirely from Levant and that no negotiations with the French were possible.

Daring U. S. Sub Crew Blasts Enemy Vessels in Home Waters

WASHINGTON, June 4 (UP)—The navy revealed today the daring exploit of a U. S. submarine that sneaked at night into a harbor jammed with Japanese ships, surfaced under the muzzles of enemy guns and torpedoed vessels all about it, then got away in a miraculous exhibition of broken-field running.

This episode earned Cmdr. Eugene B. Fluckey of the submarine Barb a medal of honor and his entire crew the presidential unit citation. The medal of honor award was previously announced but the citation was granted today.

Fluckey had long suspected the existence of a geographical concealed haven, otherwise unidentified by the navy, which had a large number of Japanese fighters, tankers and ammunition ships in an anchorage behind a protecting screen of escort vessels. The water was so shallow that an attacking submarine would have to remain surfaced during its approach and for at least an hour afterward.

The Barb moved inside the screen of Japanese escorts. She let go with all the torpedoes she could in the time available. From the bridge of the surfaced ship, Fluckey could see Japanese ships erupting in the night like a nest of volcanoes. Columns of fire leaped from several vessels. Only the Japanese now know how many ships went down that night. Fluckey had no time to stop and count.

Japanese escorts came in hot pursuit, tossing a hail of shells in the direction of the fleeing Barb. Many hit close by but all missed.

Junks anchored in the area confused the enemy and several of them were taken as targets instead of the Barb.