

# Final Okinawa Victory Is Imminent

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

## La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Willows Counties

## Japanese Surrender In Drove

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 20, 1945

FIVE CENTS

# New Allied Invasion of Borneo Looms

## County Lags Far Behind War Loan Quota as End of Bond Campaign Approaches

Emergency efforts to beat the June 30 deadline on the seventh war loan campaign E bond quota of \$741,000 were launched today by the Union county war finance committee, after appraisal of the situation indicated that \$150,500 is yet to be sold.

## Mother Defends Son on Charge He Murdered Father

Mrs. Helen G. Bowman, widow of Albert (Bert) Bowman and mother of Albert Forrest Bowman, was today called as a defense witness in the trial of the son who is accused of the murder of his father at their North Powder district ranch last April 22.

Because of limitations imposed by law, Mrs. Bowman was not permitted to give testimony on many phases of the family affairs which the defense has indicated it will attempt to bring in to the case.

She testified, however, that her husband, against whom she filed divorce proceedings but a few days before his death, had been given to excessive drinking since the middle 1930's, and when under the influence of liquor was abusive, threatening and on some occasions attempted physical violence against her and other members of the family.

She testified that the elder Bowman blamed the accused son for his parents' separation which she denied, asserting that "Forrest" had nothing to do with it.

She said that because of an attack her husband made on a younger son, Howard, in 1942 and other acts while under the influence of liquor, she induced Forrest to move to the ranch and make his home there while two of his brothers, Eugene and Clinton, were in the armed forces.

Defense attorneys Henry Heas and S. H. Burleigh indicated today they will attempt to introduce into evidence Mrs. Bowman's divorce complaint, which they said includes considerable elaboration of her statements on the witness stand.

## Polish Leaders May Escape Death

LONDON, June 20 (UP)—Moscow announced today that the Soviet prosecution is not asking the death penalty for 16 Polish underground leaders being tried on charges of subversive activity against the Red army.

Maj. Gen. Asansiev, chief prosecutor, said in summing up the Red army's case against the Poles that he would insist they be imprisoned but would not demand the extreme penalty.

An earlier Moscow dispatch said it appeared that several of the Poles would be acquitted or at most get light prison sentences.

Word that the death sentence apparently had been excluded came at the outset of the third day of the trial. The testimony was completed and final pleadings were under way.

## Cleaner Explosion Burns Small Boy

Gary Rahn, 8, the son of Ray S. Rahn of La Grande, is a patient in Grande Ronde hospital, where he is recovering from severe burns received shortly before noon yesterday while playing near a bonfire.

A can of what was presumed to be cleaning solvent, held by another boy, exploded and the burning fluid burned the Rahn boy's face.

Hospital attendants said that the boy today is recovering satisfactorily.

Mrs. Ethel Saling received a telegram from the office of the adjutant general informing her that her son, Staff Sgt. James Saling, held prisoner by the German army for a number of months, is being returned to the United States and will be able to communicate with his family as soon as he arrives.

## Wallowa Soldier With 130 Points Declines Discharge

While most members of the United States army are figuring how long it will be before they have enough points for discharge, at least two of their number have refused to accept such discharge and want to continue in the service until "the job is done."

A report from Fort Lewis, Wash., says Staff Sgt. Leonard J. Riddle of Wallowa and Master Sergeant Robert M. Walling of Salem, whose points average 130, and who have been overseas 34 months and wear the European theater ribbon with nine battle stars each, along with several decorations, want to continue as crew chiefs of B-17s, roles in which they served in Europe.

## School District Tax Levy is Cut By Court Ruling

Decision of the Oregon supreme court recently that Oregon school districts can not carry a cash working account on their budget necessitated revision of the budget of La Grande school district.

All budgetary figures remained the same in the budget recently approved by the school board and budget committee. However, a fund of \$3,500, set up as a cash working account, has been added to cash on hand, increasing that fund from \$14,000 to \$17,500.

R. O. Williams, clerk of the school board, today stated that the shifting of funds will result in a school district tax levy decrease of \$3,500, thereby still further decreasing the anticipated school district tax millage.

## Episcopal Leader Is Speaker at Rotary Meeting

Rt. Rev. W. P. Remington, Episcopal bishop at Pendleton, guest speaker at the Rotary club luncheon today noon in the Stein cafe, impressed the importance of sharing in the expanding world.

W. C. Perkins, county war finance committee chairman, described the final effort which will be necessary for Union county to reach the quota in bond sales during the current campaigns.

A previously appointed committee including Judge R. J. Green, Ed Ford, Martin Fitzgerald, Elmer McManus, George Cochran and Harry Zurbrich, agreed to sell a minimum of five \$1000 war bonds each before the end of the campaign. Each of the other members pledged to sell as many bonds as possible.

Guests were Paul Goddard, recent arrival from Lakeview who will be an instructor in the local schools, Postmaster Leo Adner of Baker, Rev. Fred Wisdenbach, Klamath Falls, Rev. A. Val-Spina, Walla Walla, Rev. Thomas Hood River, Rev. J. M. B. Gill, Lakeview, Rev. C. E. Taylor, The Dalles and Rev. V. R. Bolster, Bend.

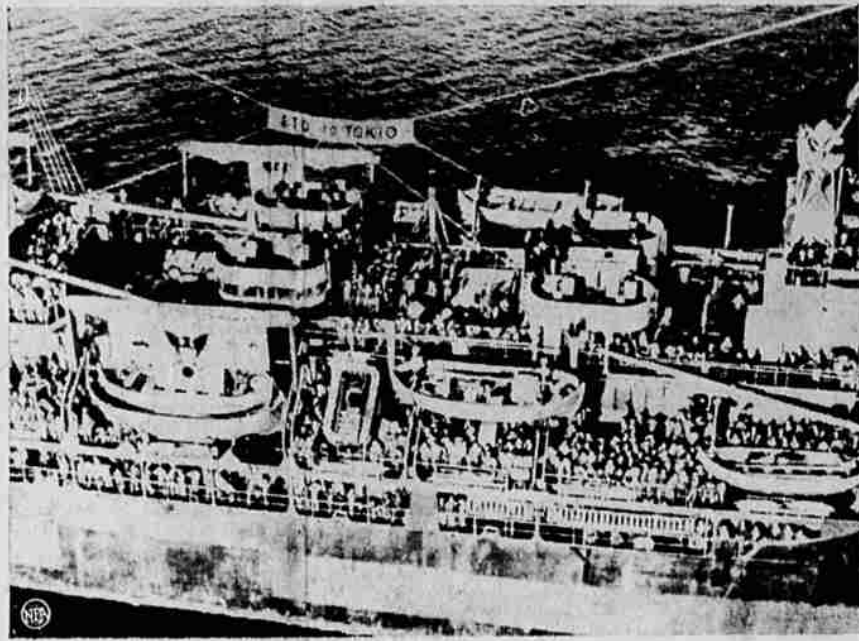
## Wage Boost Urged For Timber Workers

WASHINGTON, June 20 (UP)—Rep. Charles Savage, D., Wash., appealed today to three government agencies to accede to wage increases demands of Pacific northwest timber workers.

"I am quite certain that the workers in this industry will, if the situation is not taken care of, very soon, request a Smith-Connally strike vote," Savage said. He addressed his letter to the chairman of the war manpower commission, war labor board and war production board.

## Forest Aid Injured

Kenneth McKenzie of Pendleton, an employee of the United States forest service, cut a tendon in his foot when he stepped on an axe yesterday at the lookout station where he was on duty. He is under treatment in the Grande Ronde hospital.



FROM EUROPE TO TOKYO—Veterans of the fighting in European theater of operations, members of the 86th (Blackhawk) division are shown on one of the transports which brought 21,000 of them back to the United States en route to the Pacific war zone. They are the first complete unit to be returned from Europe in the redeployment program.

## Approval of State Building Fund Plan is Urged

Urging the voters of Eastern Oregon to go to the polls Friday and cast their ballots for the state building fund proposal, Charles H. Reynolds, local member of a statewide committee supporting the proposal, today called attention to the fact that approval of the proposition at this time will relieve taxpayers of a property levy in the future.

In addition to the proposal that \$10,000,000 in surplus income taxes be made available for erection of much needed buildings for state educational and other institutions, the voters will ballot on a proposal to levy a 2-cent tax on cigarettes to support public schools.

Banks and city and county offices will be closed all day because of the election, and the polls will be open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Oregon taxpayers have at the Friday election an opportunity to relieve themselves of a future property tax," Reynolds said, "by voicing approval of the state building fund unused money now on hand can be used for the construction of buildings by the board of higher education and the board of control."

People of La Grande have a decided interest in the election since a favorable vote will permit the early construction of needed buildings at the Eastern Oregon college. Our people must also realize that the return of the service men and their opportunities of attending college under the GI bill will present serious problems to all educational institutions. We must keep faith with these men and also must retain and increase the educational advantages of the state of Oregon.

The graduating class is the first to complete a normal four-year course in three years of constant study under the accelerated wartime program of four nine-month terms without the customary intervening three-month vacation period.

Lyman, a graduate of La Grande high school in the class of 1933, attended Eastern Oregon college, will intern at Good Samaritan hospital. Stoddard will intern in a Chicago hospital.

## Teen-Age Boy Sought For Bank Robbery

PORTLAND, June 20 (UP)—A 17-year-old youth was sought today by FBI operatives and city police after a daring "snatch" robbery of \$1000 from a downtown branch of the First National Bank of Portland.

The youthful thief snatched the money, which was in \$10 bills, from a bank cashier late yesterday before closing time, just after the cashier had finished counting the money and turned to an adjoining cage to get a rubber band with which to fasten the bills.

## Board of Junior Chamber to Meet

The La Grande junior chamber of commerce directors will meet at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow in the chamber of commerce office, to discuss plans for a stay-at-home fourth of July.

## Junior Chamber Has Plan to Relieve Manpower Shortage

La Grande junior chamber of commerce will sell the senior chamber of commerce down the creek, so to speak, when they auction Raymond Gray, the ringleader of the older clan, and others, at a war bond sale at 8 p. m. Saturday, at Adams and Depot streets.

Gray's services, along with those of Postmaster Victor Eckley, Harry McCarthy, clothing merchant, W. E. Wilkins, real estate man, and Ed Ford, city manager, will be granted to those persons making the largest purchases of bonds at the auction.

The purchaser may designate the tasks to be performed by the man whose services he obtains through the auction.

Rumor has it that Ed Ford may be asked to clean his own streets while the crowd looks on. Simon Legree Claude Berry will officiate at the auction block.

Prior to the auction, Leroy Darling and his junior band will be transported about town on a motorized hayrack while their music reminds the townspeople of the evening's events.

A gay time is anticipated, and the entire county has been invited to attend.

## La Grande Men To Be Graduated At Medical School

Howard Watson Lyman and David Howell Stoddard of La Grande, and Vance Lewis Terrill, Union, will be among 75 graduates who will receive doctor of medicine degrees in commencement exercises of the University of Oregon medical school June 22, in the school auditorium or Marquam hall.

Lyman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lyman, La Grande, and Stoddard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David J. Stoddard, formerly of La Grande, and now of Chicago.

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There is important work to be done by this committee," the governor declared in opening the session. "You have a great opportunity to perform a real service for the state."

Pointing to the trend toward state support of political subdivisions such as school districts, cities and counties, the governor told the committee that this phase of the over-all tax picture should receive their careful consideration.

"Some of these subdivisions are faced with a real critical situation in their effort to finance their activities and insist that they must have more state aid," the governor declared.

## Outbreak of Parrot Fever Is Feared

PHILADELPHIA, June 20 (UP)—Public health department and humane society officials today mapped plans to exterminate pigeons from city parks and squares to forestall a possible outbreak of psittacosis, or parrot fever.

Public Health Director Rufus S. Eaves ordered the birds destroyed after tests disclosed that the 35 to 48 per cent carried a virus resembling that of the highly communicable parrot fever.

The American advance in northern Luzon continued unchecked with the 37th division striving across the Cagayan river, where the Japanese might have been expected to make a stand.

Amphibious patrols made another new landing — unopposed like the others — 10 miles southeast of Brunei town. On the west coast, other units pushed four miles beyond the town of Tutong through almost impassable mangrove swamps. They apparently were attempting to drive overland toward the Seria and Miri oilfields, where persistent minesweeping activity has indicated new landings might be made soon.

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## Great Oil Center Is Assaulted

MANILA, June 20 (UP)—Radio Tokyo reported today that allied mine sweepers have begun work in the bay of Balikpapan, the great Borneo oil center which has been pounded from sea and air for the past week.

The Japanese broadcast said that four mine sweepers began their work yesterday, a necessary preliminary to any invasion of the rich oil area of Borneo's east coast.

Tokyo claimed that shore batteries sank one of the sweepers and the other three withdrew.

(A Domei dispatch said that the sweeper sank after it struck a mine.)

Previous Japanese broadcasts have reported the bombardment of Balikpapan by an allied fleet, said to include an aircraft carrier, three battleships, 16 destroyers and other warships.

Communications from Gen. Douglas MacArthur's head quarters have not confirmed the naval bombardments, but have reported daily air attacks on gun positions and airfields in the Balikpapan area — also a pre-invasion pattern of assault.

Bombers Blast Enemy Today's communique reported that heavy bombers dumped 500 tons of explosives on Balikpapan and the ship-building center of Samarinda to the north.

On Borneo's northwest coast, the Australians made more progress in all directions, their advances apparently slowed only by the thick jungle country. The force which landed at Weston, on the east shore of Brunei Bay, gained two of the 18 miles to the rubber center of Beaufort.

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## Gen. 'Ike' Reviews West Point Cadets

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 20 (UP)—General of the army Dwight D. Eisenhower, in battle jacket and overseas cap, returned today to the U. S. military academy where he was just another unknown graduate 30 years ago.

He arrived by car from New York and a 17-gun salute boomed out a welcome. With the general was his son, Lt. John Eisenhower, a recent graduate at West Point, his parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Doud of Abilene, Kans., and some members of his staff.

Eisenhower will stay at the academy overnight. He will fly to Kansas City, Mo., tomorrow from Stewart Field. After a reception in Kansas City, the former Kansas farm boy will leave for his home town of Abilene, Kan., for another welcome.

The bunker was saturated with gasoline and set on fire after the suicide of Goebbels and his wife the chauffeur reported.

Kempke said that between 3 and 4 a. m. on May 2 he saw three other topflight nazis wounded, probably fatally, while trying to flee Berlin.

They were Martin Bormann, Nazi party leader; Werner Nauemann, state secretary in the propaganda ministry who married Hitler and Eva; and Dr. Stumpfecker, Hitler's personal physician in the last days of Nazi resistance.

Hitler's personal chauffeur, Eric Kempke, gave the first eyewitness account bearing out Nazi reports that Hitler died in Berlin shortly before it fell to the Red army.

Kempke said he carried Eva Braun's body from the bunker after she and Hitler shot themselves with pistols.

Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels and his wife killed themselves in an unknown manner in a bunker on the night of May 1 — the day before Berlin fell — Kempke said.

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