

# Okinawa Based Planes Blast Japan

See Columns 1-2

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

## La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON  
Union and Wallowa Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 23, 1945

FIVE CENTS

### Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.  
Temperature:  
Maximum 84  
Minimum 49  
Forecast: Scattered cloudiness tonight and Sunday.

# Building Proposal Carries; Fag Tax Beaten

## Suicide Base Raids Are Foretaste of Big Battering to Come

PEARL HARBOR, June 23 (UP)—The Okinawa investment was paying off today as planes based on the bitterly-won island raided Japan proper.

Twenty-eight fighters from Okinawa bombed and strafed Japanese suicide plane bases near Fukuoka on the southern home island of Kyushu. Seventy-five Mustangs based on Iwo Jima attacked airfields around Mito, 65 miles north of Tokyo.

The 28-plane raid was only a teaser of what will happen when Okinawa becomes the base it is in the blueprints. But dispatches from the field revealed six airfields already in operation on the island, and the steady development of Okinawa was enough to keep the Japanese on edge.

## Tokyo Boasts of Defense Moves to Annihilate Enemy

GUAM, June 23 (UP)—Tokyo said today that Japan has perfected her defenses against an American invasion and speculated that Emperor Hirohito personally may take over direction of the homeland in its hour of supreme peril.

Radio Tokyo said a military spokesman for the southern regions had reported at a press conference that defenses throughout Japan had been perfected in anticipation of an invasion.

"The entire nation, including even children of the primary schools, are fully prepared to deal with any situation and fully confident they are able to crush the enemy at any time and anywhere he chooses to strike," the spokesman said.

"All Japanese are today waiting anxiously and impatiently for the enemy to strike the homeland so that the nation can deal a final annihilative blow that will finish the enemies of East Asia once and for all.

"The fighting spirit and will to fight of the Japanese people today is at its peak."

## Year's Traffic Toll In Oregon is 116

SALEM, Ore., June 23 (UP)—Traffic accidents claimed a toll of 116 lives in Oregon during the first five months of 1945, it was reported today by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell. Of the 116 fatalities 61 occurred in rural areas, 35 in the city of Portland and 20 in other urban areas.

Farrell today urged Oregon motorists to exercise extra precautions over the Fourth of July holiday, suggesting short trips if any, in the interest of vehicle conservation and accident prevention.

## Banker Named to Education Board

SALEM, Ore., June 23 (UP)—Governor Earl Snell today announced the appointment of Herman Oliver, John Day banker and stock raiser, as a member of the state board of higher education, replacing from that commission in April, 1943.

Oliver was one of the original members of the state board of higher education when it was created in 1929. He resigned in 1940 to become a member of the state highway commission, retiring from that commission in April, 1943.

## Former La Grande Druggist Succumbs

Many former friends of Lawrence L. Watts, former La Grande druggist, were apprised of his death in Portland.

Watts was well known here and was engaged in the drug business for a long period, having moved to Portland a number of years ago. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. L. O. Lakin.

Funeral services were conducted today in the coast city.



OKINAWA ARK CAUGHT IN DELUGE—Flash flood caused by tropical torrent caught this AAF liaison plane and it took the whole crew to fish it out. Weather is typical of obstacles Yanks found in exterminating Japs on the island.

## Jap Stab at U. S. Shipping Seen In Floating Sea Mines

SEATTLE, June 23 (UP)—Bizarre Japanese attempts to cripple west coast shipping by floating mines across the Pacific on the Japanese current were indicated today by shipping warnings from Pacific northwest and Alaska naval districts.

The 13th naval district here confirmed an earlier warning from the coastguard information office at Ketchikan, Alaska, that floating mines have begun appearing in waters along the Alaskan coast.

The Japanese current, mariners pointed out, sweeps northward from Japan, along the Aleutians and south along the Alaska coast and the west coast of the United States.

"We are not sure yet whether any of the mines have drifted this far south," a 13th naval district headquarters spokesman said, "but we have just received the warning issued to shipping from the 17th naval district in Alaska and are investigating."

"It is entirely possible that the mines are Japanese," he said. "A later naval announcement, during the past three years a number of Japanese mines had been washed to the west coast of the United States and Alaska, but had damaged no allied shipping."

United Press reports from Okinawa recently told of Japanese attempts to cripple allied shipping there by losing hundreds of mines in the currents along the Ryukyuu chain.

At Ketchikan, the coastguard issued a warning to all shipping, including fishermen and boat operators that mines had begun appearing along the Alaskan coast.

The coastguard announcement gave no indication whether the mines were enemy-manufactured, and naval district headquarters here pointed out the possibility the mines had broken loose from American fields.

"But if the Japs were desperate," See FLOATING... Page 7.

## Last Rites Set For Capt. J. T. Gardner

Funeral services for the late Dr. John T. Gardner, captain in the U. S. army and formerly of La Grande, will be at 9:30 a. m. Monday, in St. Patrick's church in Walla Walla. Interment will be in the Catholic cemetery. The Very Rev. J. J. Callahan will officiate. Rosary will be said at 8 p. m. Sunday at the Marshall, Calloway and Hennessey funeral home.

He left La Grande about 11 years ago, and practiced dentistry in Walla Walla until entering the service.

## U. S. Citizenship Sought By Bridges

SAN FRANCISCO, June 23 (UP)—Harry Bridges, west coast labor leader who won a court fight against his deportation as a communist, today applied for U. S. citizenship.

Bridges earlier predicted that the "same forces who attacked me for lack of citizenship" would seek to prevent or delay his attainment of citizenship.

SPANIARDS ARRESTED—PHILADELPHIA, June 23 (UP)—Two Spanish seamen were arrested here today by federal bureau of investigation agents and charged with smuggling messages to the Germans.

They were held for further hearing June 28. Bail was set at \$25,000 for each.

## House Approves Agriculture Chief As U. S. Food Czar

### Relief of Meat Shortage Sought In OPA Action

WASHINGTON, June 23 (UP)—The house added an amendment to the OPA extension bill today which would make the new secretary of agriculture, Rep. Clinton P. Anderson, D., N. M., the nation's food czar.

The vote was 164 to 146. Backed by virtually all republicans and a few democrats, the amendment would give the agriculture secretary veto power over all regulations and orders affecting food. It would require his approval in writing within 90 days before any order became effective.

The proposal, approved while the measure was being read for amendment, was adopted only tentatively, and is subject to a final roll call vote when the measure comes up for passage.

Meat Relief Sought—Earlier, the house tentatively approved two amendments designed specifically to relieve the current meat shortage.

One, offered by Rep. George J. Bates, R., Mass., was identical with the so-called "Barkley amendment" adopted by the senate. It would compel OPA to consider hogs, cattle and lambs as separate items in the imposition of price ceilings based on cost of production plus a reasonable profit. At present, OPA imposes livestock ceilings based on the over-all profit of the entire meat processing industry.

The other offered by Rep. Wright Patman, D., Tex., would permit interstate shipment of meat slaughtered in non-federal inspected plants upon the certification of the secretary of agriculture.

The house rejected, 162 to 86, a substitute by Rep. J. Edgar Chenoweth, R., Colo., which would have removed slaughter quotas.

In speaking for the Patman amendment, Anderson told the house that there appears to be an abundance of livestock and it should be translated into meat.

## Jap Escape Route Cut By Guerrillas

MANILA, June 23 (UP)—A phantom Filipino-American army fanned through the Cagayan valley today in pursuit of the last large enemy force on Luzon after sealing the island's final escape port.

The ghost force, composed of sixth army troops and Filipino guerrillas, suddenly swooped down from the mountains of northwest Luzon, and captured Aparri, north Luzon port. It was at Aparri that the Japanese made their first Luzon landing in their invasion of the Philippines in December, 1941, and it was the last port they could use to extricate any of the two divisions now trapped in the Cagayan valley.

The joint force which captured Aparri then advanced south eight miles to the town of Dugo.

## Low Level Route To Alaska Urged

PORTLAND, Ore., June 23 (UP)—Sentiment for a low level highway to Alaska west of the Cascade mountain range drew favor today at a conference of the interstate cooperation commission of California, Oregon and Washington.

Sponsors of the highway cited how it would tap the large mineral resources and scenic areas of the northern county. Kemper Freeman of Seattle, representing the Northwest trade association, and Donald McDonald of Fairbanks, formerly of the Alaska highway commission, declared such a route would be cheap to build, have all-year service and connect tributary resources.

The conference closes tonight. It was preceded by a Wednesday-Thursday governmental conference of high state, federal and county officials.



KNOWS THE SCORE—Prisoner of the Japs at Santo Tomas camp on Luzon for three years, Patricia M. Chittick, above, of Yakima, Wash., joined the WAVES to "settle a personal score with the enemy." She was born in Manila 20 years ago.

## Want Nylons? They're Yours At Bond Sale

Nylon hose, that commodity dear to the feminine heart, will be offered at auction tonight at the junior chamber of commerce bond rally at 8 o'clock at Adams and Depot streets.

These are the first nylon hose to be offered in La Grande in several years, and to the highest bidder will go the much prized hose.

Other items to be offered by that master auctioneer, Claude Berry, are the services of five prominent business men, as well as 51-gauge hose, second only to nylons, cigarettes, gum and candy.

Gossip in the business district has it that W. E. Wilkins, real estate man, plans to reverse the process and auction Berry, refusing to be "sold" by a business competitor.

The entire county has been invited to attend, both to buy bonds and witness the hilarity that will accompany the sales of the business men's services.

## Third Oregon Area Over E-Bond Goal

PORTLAND, June 23 (UP)—Harney county Saturday became the third Oregon county to make its E-bond goal while the state shot past the mark on its overall quota.

Harney reported \$17,753 sold over its E-bond quota of \$22,000. Oregon's all-issues total was \$19,596,995 for 108.7 per cent of its \$110,000,000 quota but its E-bond quota were still almost \$15,000,000 short of the goal. Corporation bond sales put the total over the top.

Hood River and Wasco counties have gone over both their all-issues and E-bond goals. Gilliam, Tillamook, Benton, Clackamas, Polk, Josephine, Washington, Multnomah and Deschutes have reached their all-issues quotas.

## Former Gangster Is Slain as Prowler

CHICAGO, June 23 (UP)—Pasquale Pargone, 41, east side hoodlum of the 1920's, was shot and killed early today by Antonio Zino, 55.

Zino, the father of nine children, said he was disturbed by prowlers. Arming himself with a .32 caliber pistol, Zino went down the back stairs of his second floor apartment and saw four men running. He ordered them to halt and just as three men climbed over a fence he shot once. Pargone dropped dead with a bullet in his heart.

## School Support and Improvement Plans Attract Light Vote

PORTLAND, June 23 (UP)—Voters in Oregon decisively approved the \$10,000,000 state building fund in Friday's special election, and defeated a proposed cigaret tax by a wide margin, late returns showed today.

The building fund was passed by a three-to-two margin, while the cigaret tax was losing steadily as late returns came in, despite some favorable margins recorded in downstate counties. The proposal was trailing by a margin of more than 8,000 votes in late returns.

With 1,432 of the state's 1,830 precincts reporting, the count stood:  
Building fund: Yes, 68,490; no, 44,040.  
Cigaret tax: Yes, 52,785; no, 60,178.

A mere handful of the state's 603,013 registered voters turned out at the state's first special election in nine years, in a near-record light vote. In some counties the vote was less than 10 per cent.

The heavily approved building fund is a two-year measure, designed to raise \$6,000,000 for new buildings for the state hospitals and other institutions, and \$4,000,000 for higher education buildings. The measure, labeled a property tax, will impose no new property levy, as it will be offset by income tax surpluses now in the state treasury.

The cigaret tax would have brought an estimated \$2,000,000 into the state's coffers yearly, for the benefit of common schools. It was intended to be a permanent tax of two cents per package. Similar cigaret tax proposals have been defeated by Oregon voters on previous occasions.

In Portland, a civic center proposal was spewed under by a two-to-one margin. The center would have provided construction of civic and semi-public buildings and for a park area on the downtown waterfront.

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## Nazi Labor Leader Nabbed By Yanks

LEIPZIG, June 23 (UP)—A former Nazi labor boss who palmed himself off as "Germany's Henry Kaiser" was arrested, as a war criminal yesterday when an American patrol found him cowering in a pigsty. He had a small fortune in stolen Nazi funds.

The prisoner, Dr. Eugen Fleiderer, was one of the top officials of the Nazi labor front and had been sought for weeks as the man responsible for the building of the notorious Nordhausen concentration camp.

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## Browder Ousted as Communist Leader

NEW YORK, June 23 (UP)—Earl Browder has been ousted as leader of the communist political association by a three man secretariat which issued a call today for a national convention to make recommendations for "strengthening and freshening the national leadership."

The convention is expected to return the communists to the status of a political party.

The party was dissolved in January, 1944. The CPA was formed with Browder as president and pledging its support of free enterprise.

## Baseball Results By United Press

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
	R. H. E.
Philadelphia	6 8 1
New York	7 14 2
St. Louis	6 10 2
Boston	5 12 1
Washington	6 10 2
Chicago	5 12 1
Winnipeg	6 10 2
St. Paul	5 12 1

Reduction in the hours during which the Union county war price and rationing board will be open to the public was announced today by Miss Nelle Grimmer, chief clerk, upon receipt of instructions from the district headquarters.

Beginning Monday, the office will be open from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m., instead of until 4:30 p. m., and will be open only until noon on Saturdays instead of until 1 p. m.

The hours on Friday will remain unchanged, 10 a. m. to 8:30 p. m., Miss Grimmer announced.

The shortening of hours was ordered, she said, to give more uninterrupted time for the detail work that accompanies various operations of the board, thereby providing faster service to the public.