

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Willamette Counties

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 1945

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

FIVE CENTS

Soil District Petition Voted

Union, Ladd Canyon Hot Lake Included

Preparation and circulation of a petition for the formation of a soil conservation district in the Hot Lake, Ladd canyon, and Union district, was decided upon last night at a meeting of farmers and soil conservation specialists at Hot Lake.

Truman Heads For Antwerp; To Fly From Brussels

Watches Meeting Of American British Ships

By MERRIMAN SMITH
ABOARD U.S.S. AUGUSTA WITH PRESIDENT TRUMAN, July 14 (UP)—President Truman headed up the misty English channel today. His ship was chaperoned by seven British warships leading the way toward Antwerp, where the president and his staff will dock, enroute to the big three meeting at Potsdam, Germany.

From Antwerp the president and his advisers will take a three-hour motor trip to Brussels, where they will board a plane for the Potsdam parley.

This veteran warship and the accompanying light cruiser Philadelphia rendezvoused early today with the British cruiser Birmingham and six destroyers, the flotilla detailed to escort the president's two-ship task force to Antwerp.

The chief executive ate breakfast at 7 a. m. so he could be on deck to watch the meeting of American and British warships. Out of the early morning mist at the southern end of the channel, the British vessels sailed up to the Augusta and Philadelphia. The destroyers gracefully fanned out ahead of the president's ship, then fell into line, three on each side of the heavy cruiser.

The Birmingham ran down through the formation, passing close off the Augusta's port side. The British crew, which was at quarters, snapped to salute and the Birmingham's band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner."

The president, wearing his tweed cap and a fur-lined heavy weather coat, watched the man-of-war from a 40-millimeter anti-aircraft gun mount. He watched the destroyers through binoculars.

Truman goes to the Potsdam conference armed with evidence that the United States intends to cooperate in peaceful settlement of future disputes.

British Attack Jap Installations

LONDON, July 14 (UP)—Japanese radar installations in the Nicobar islands lay in ashes today and many ships caught in the harbors were damaged heavily by ships and carrier aircraft of the British East Indies fleet which bombarded the islands.

A special southeast Asia command communiqué said British warships and carrier-based planes also hammered Japanese shore batteries, while the planes roared on to attack airfields in north-west Sumatra.

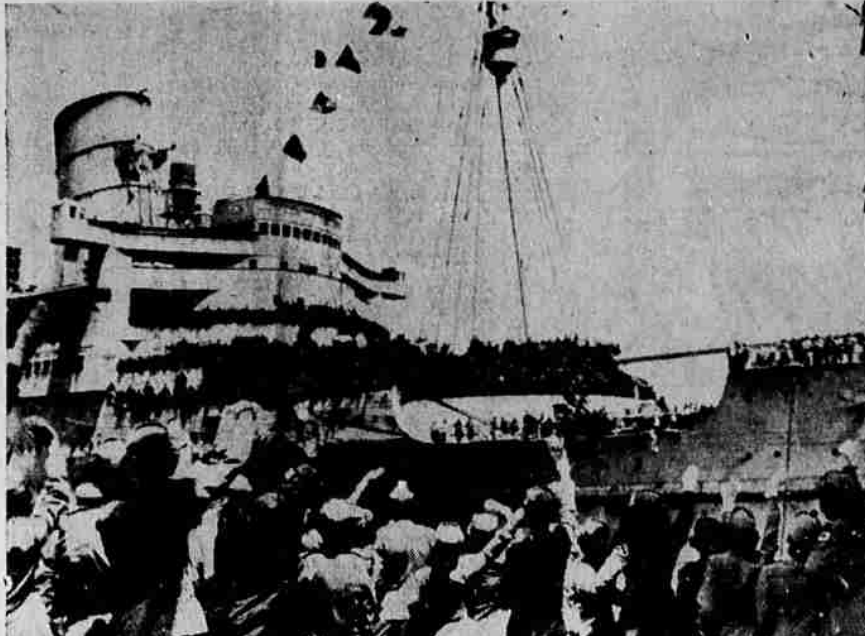
The British force, under command of Rear Admiral W. R. Patterson, included the sixth mine-sweeping flotilla, the aircraft carriers HMS Amethyst and Emerton, and the destroyer HMS Roebuck.

Planes attacking the islands were met by heavy anti-aircraft fire and sea rescue warplanes were forced to fly close inshore to pick up pilots who had been shot down. Japanese machine gunners failed to keep the rescuers away.

Seed Certification Here Proceeding

E. R. Jackman, extension crops specialist from Oregon State college, was in La Grande last night assisting County Agent R. W. Schaad with seed certification and crop inspection work last night.

The approximate number of acres expected this year for certification are: alfalfa, 155, timothy, 155, illinois rescue, 32; creeping red fescue, 530, bent grasses, 80; alfalfa, 50; and wheat, 25.



MOST WELCOME SIGHT SINCE THEY LEFT—Fifteen thousand veterans of European war, crowding the decks of the Queen Mary, give their rousing cheers to Red Cross workers waving from welcoming boat.

Tillamook Fires Out Of Hand

PORTLAND, July 14 (UP)—Additional soldiers from Portland army airbase today were rushed to Tillamook county fires which flared beyond control late yesterday on the Wilson and Salmonberry rivers.

C. C. Scott, manager of the Oregon Fire Fire association, said high winds sweeping from the coast carried flames over 600 additional acres in new scrub and underbrush. No green timber was reached.

Along the Wilson river, flames swept east and up toward Cochran, and state police reported the Wilson river highway east of Glenwood and west of Tillamook is closed because of the McNama bridge 20 miles from Tillamook has burned.

Coast-going buses were rerouted through Hebo. Scott expected the Salmonberry river fire to be under control today unless wind velocity increases. However, because of rugged terrain about Wilson river, he predicted no time when the fire will be reined.

Humidity in the area was 30 percent Friday — not unusually low, but low enough to halt logging operations, the weather bureau reported. Today, the humidity was expected to increase 10 to 20 percent, lessening fire hazards. Cooler weather is forecast.

In Oregon and Washington national forests, the United States regional forest fire control office reported 62 lightning fires, but none of consequence. All were in eastern Oregon. Three are in Deschutes forest, one in Fremont, 12 in Malheur, one in Mt. Hood, seven in Ochoco, three in Umatilla, 10 in Umpqua, one in Whitman and 20 in Willamette, with four along the Rogue river.

SAWDUST NEAR MILL BREAKS INTO FLAMES
The 30-acre sawdust fire which has been smoldering for the past month near the Bowman-Hicks mill, burst into flame again yesterday, necessitating additional fire-control efforts by state foresters, L. M. Compton, district warden, announced today.

The fire, the cause of which is not known, is now under control, but owing to the difficulty of putting out sawdust fires, has not yet been extinguished.

German Prisoner Of War Escapes

SAN FRANCISCO, July 14 (UP)—George Gerst, German prisoner of war, escaped last night from camp Kohler, near Sacramento, the federal bureau of investigation announced today.

The FBI said Gerst speaks fairly good English and was wearing a prisoner of war uniform. He is 23, six feet tall, with brown hair and eyes and a pronounced Adam's apple. He wears horned rimmed glasses.

Hope For Legless, Armless Veteran

By RUTH RUDESILL
MINNEAPOLIS, July 14 (UP)—Albert Wenger would like to sit down and have a talk with Sgt. Frederic Hensel, the only American soldier to lose his arms and legs in this war.

"I would like to tell him to keep smiling," Wenger said. And Wenger knows. He lost parts of both his arms and legs eight years ago, when he was 17. He's got a job, he supports himself, and he has a lot of fun. He can hunt, fish, play pool, drive a car, and even do a little jive-bugging.

More Meat, Butter for Civilians

Troops Marching Here Reminiscent Of Cadet Days

The troops of soldiers marching through La Grande yesterday were reminiscent of the days when the cadets trained in La Grande, the difference being, the troops yesterday were only exercising while their train stopped here, and that they counted in that inimitable manner of "hup, two, three, four," while more La Grander remember the cadets marching down the hill in the early dawn singing "Rocky Is the Meaneast Man in Town."

It reminded local citizens of the times when newly arrived companies of cadets would go on shopping tours, a detachment marching down Adams avenue to draw up smartly before a business firm, stand at attention a moment, disband temporarily to make their purchases before falling in to march to the next store.

Men yesterday, too, had the easy stride of seasoned fighting men, rather than the snappy, tense movement of the trainees eager to please their sergeant and avoid his noisy disapproval in public.

Fertilizer Orders Pooled in County

Orders for 20 percent superphosphate fertilizer are now being pooled through the AAA extension service in Union county, R. W. Schaad, county agent, announced today.

The AAA provides for a practice payment for the application of this fertilizer, which is used especially for legume seed production, pasture crops, and truck crops.

SHAEF Goes Out Of Existence

FRANKFURT, July 14 (UP)—SHAEF, the greatest military coalition in history, went out of existence at midnight last night exactly 17 months after it was organized to defeat the Wehrmacht.

British and French staffs have now departed from L. G. Farben industrial buildings at Frankfurt and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has automatically ceased to be supreme commander and is now simply chief of the American occupation forces in Germany.

Only a liquidation commission, representing America, Britain, and France, remained to handle numerous complex problems involving all three nations.

Gen. Eisenhower awarded the legion of merit and bronze star decorations to 140 British officers and 11 enlisted men. Deputy supreme commander air chief marshal Sir Arthur Tedder reciprocated with British awards for 106 American officers.

NO JURISDICTION

SALEM, July 14 (UP)—Persons serving jail sentences of 180 days do not come under the authority of the state board of parole and probation, Attorney General George Neuner ruled today.

Three Lectures Close Police, FBI School

Three lecturers, Special Agent K. D. Deaderick, Special Agent Max E. Taylor, and Frank Schiro, publisher of the Observer, yesterday conducted classes at the last session of La Grande's five-day FBI police school.

Agent Deaderick opened the session, lecturing on the searching of persons and places with an actual problem adapted to the La Grande police department.

Agent Taylor concluded his series of lectures and demonstrations of defense tactics, and Schiro discussed police press cooperation in his lecture on public relations.

Improvements in Courthouse Will Start Shortly

Remodeling and improvement of the county courthouse will be started as soon as specifications are received and bids are submitted, it was announced today.

The main improvement will be the building of a larger fire-proof and burglar-proof vault in the basement directly below the present recorder's office. A new stairway will be built from the first-floor vault to the basement vault, the stairway being used for stacks.

Changes will also be made in the locations of offices, it was announced. A doorway will be made between the county recorder's office and the present county superintendent of schools' office, which will be converted into the county clerk's office. The county superintendent of schools will then move to the present location of the county clerk's office on the second floor.

Chennault Resigns Air Force Post

CHUNGKING, July 14 (UP)—Lt. Gen. Claire L. Chennault resigned as commander of the U. S. 14th air force today and his resignation was accepted by Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of all American forces in China. Chennault announced his decision to retire from the army but did not specify any reason.

The reason for Chennault's resignation was officially described by the 14th air force as "retirement." An official statement was indicated to be forthcoming.

Chennault, 41, was born in Texas, had a steady career ever since he first formed the world famous "Flying Tigers" in the summer of 1941.



FAST THINKING SAVES CRACK TRAIN—Split-second thinking by Eugene Caudell, 11, and Bobby Rolen, 13, (right) of Prince Georges county, Md., was credited by Baltimore & Ohio railroad officials with saving the crack Ambassador from possible catastrophe. During afternoon storm, the boys saw lightning strike a giant tree, felling it across the tracks. Knowing the Ambassador was due to pass any minute, they ran to near-by house and notified local station, which had train flagged down. Had message arrived 90 seconds later, the train might have crashed into the tree. Boys are shown sitting on part of tree.

Yank Battleships Attack Japanese Home Islands

Nine Steam Close To Honshu To Shell City

By WILLIAM F. TYREE
GUAM, July 14 (UP)—American battleships, attacking under cover of a 1,000-plane carrier strike on Japan's northern islands, set the Honshu steel port of Hamashi aflame from end to end under a merciless two-hour bombardment today in history's big naval blow at the Japanese homeland.

Led by three or more of the most modern and hardest-hitting dreadnaughts in the Pacific fleet, a flotilla of at least nine American warships steamed within five miles of the Japanese shores at noon today to unlimber their giant guns on Kamashi, 275 miles north of Tokyo.

Many Shells

Unchallenged by the elusive Japanese fleet and air force, the surface raiders sent salvo after salvo of five, eight and 16-inch shells crashing down into the city's sprawling steel mills and dock yards.

When they wheeled back to sea 120 minutes later, the entire city was blanketed in smoke and flames. The huge Kamashi steel mill was demolished and the adjoining coke ovens were burning furiously from the cannonade.

The battle-hungry yank fleet apparently broke radio silence to flash word of the successful bombardment back to fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz' headquarters on Guam, in a blunt challenge.

First reports from the sea indicated the enemy had discreetly ignored the challenge.

It was the navy's greatest and most spectacular strike at Japan since the war began and it shattered forever the myth of impregnability the Japanese had woven about their home islands.

Still Going On

Meanwhile, there were signs the fleet's massive carrier blow against northern Honshu and southern Hokkaido, almost 200 miles north of Kamashi, might still be going on this afternoon, 12 hours after the attack opened at dawn.

First official reports identified only the big Hokkaido port of Hakodate among the American air targets. The city was left blazing furiously.

But Tokyo said the American navy fliers ranged as much as 200 miles north and northeast of Hakodate to pound the railway and coastal cities of Muroran, Obihiro and Kushiro.

Big Two Arrive Names Not Revealed; All But Truman

BERLIN, July 14 (UP)—The first important personages for the Big Three meeting arrived today at two secret areas a few miles from Berlin.

The greatest secrecy surrounded the arrivals. The areas in which the personages arrived could not be revealed or the names of those who came in.

The meeting was being surrounded by the most comprehensive security precautions imaginable.

(President Truman is on the high seas, which leaves only the head of the British government and the head of the Russian government to be identified in the Berlin dispatch. Guess who.)

Sino-Russian Talks Dropped

By HAROLD GUARD
LONDON, July 14 (UP)—Russian-Chinese conversations today were suspended temporarily due to the imminent big three meetings but indications increased Pussia and China have made real progress in clearing up many issues.

An official communiqué issued in Moscow said the conferences will resume in the "nearest future," presumably at the conclusion of the big three session at Potsdam.

Chinese Foreign Minister T. V. Soong was returning to Chungking where he will consult with Gen. Chiang Kai-shek on progress achieved in his series of talks with Gen. Josef Stalin and Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov.

There was no hint as to whether Soong and Stalin had discussed the possibility of Russia's entry into the far-eastern war but the official communiqué was couched in warm language. The consultations were the most extensive which have taken place between the Russians and Chinese in recent years.

Last Heavy Bomber Home From England

BRADLEY FIELD, Conn., July 14 (UP)—The last heavy bomber to leave the United Kingdom under the AAF redeployment program has arrived at Bradley field, officials at the first air force base announced today.

The plane, a B-24 named "El Fubar," arrived yesterday piloted by first Lt. Dean Gordon Williams, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Williams, San Bruno, Calif.

Williams, who lived in Omaha until he went into service in 1943, flew 33 missions in the European theater of operations including 32 over Germany and one over France.

Partly cloudy with scattered thunder showers over the rest of Cascades tonight. Clearing Sunday; somewhat cooler south at portion Sunday.

SALEM, July 14 (UP)—The navy V-12 training program at Willamette university will come to an end at the close of the current semester in October, university president Dr. G. Harbert Smith was informed.

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.
Temperature
Maximum 84
Minimum 57
Precipitation 1.40