

Weather

Data for 24 hours at 7 a. m.

Temperature:
Maximum 87
Minimum 53

Oregon: Clear tonight and Tuesday.

ESTABLISHED 1896

Minam Fire Spreads to 700 Acres

Fleet Now in Actions Off Japan

GUAM, July 23 (UP)—Destroyer spearheads of Admiral William F. Halsey's allied fleet reopened the attack on Japan with a double strike into Tokyo bay and the Bonin islands today while his main battle force raged through storm-lashed Japanese waters under an ominous security blackout.

The four-day silence blanketing Halsey's combined fleet ended explosively in the early darkness when the guns of an allied destroyer squadron wrecked a four-ship Japanese convoy in a 20-minute battle off Tokyo bay.

Another Typhoon

Almost simultaneously, another destroyer flotilla ranged off Chinchin island in the Bonins, 725 miles to the south, and shelled the town of Omura.

Tokyo broadcasts said the waters around Japan had been hit again by a howling tropical typhoon similar to the one that damaged a big segment of Halsey's fleet in June.

There still was no word on the whereabouts of the scores of American and British battleships, carriers and cruisers that blacked out last Thursday morning after a tremendous 10-day air-sea bombardment that littered eastern Japan and its coastal waters with the wreckage of 412 ships and 556 planes.

Hit Battleship

A communique revealed the 32,720 ton Nagato, one of the known surviving battleships of the Imperial fleet, was one of the 412 vessels smashed up by Halsey's raiders in their 10-day foray. The Nagato was heavily damaged.

Other developments in the spreading pre-invasion attack on Japan included:

1—A fleet of 75 to 100 Superfortresses unloaded almost 500 tons of fire bombs on the huge Ube synthetic oil plant in southwestern Honshu. There was no aerial opposition.

Doolittle There

2—Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle assumed command of a new U. S. eighth air force in the Okinawa, equipped with Superfortresses and supporting fighters for a share in the softening-up bombing of Japan.

3—Tokyo reported an American surface force shelled Paramushiro island.

4—200 army Mustang fighters from two rocketed and machine-gunned a 90-mile stretch of southern Honshu from Osaka westward to Okayama in daylight.

30 Leave Here To Go to Presbyterian Camp at Wallowa

Thirty young persons from the junior high and high school group left La Grande this morning for the Presbyterian youth camp at Wallowa lake, along with delegations from Baker, Pendleton, Tutuilla Indian Mission, Pilot Rock, Burns and Dayville.

The camp, to be conducted through July 31, will include besides the classes on interpretations of the Bible, development of personality, church and church membership, boy and girl relationships and the missionary enterprise, such recreations as swimming, horseback riding, baseball, valley ball, hikes and camp fire activity.

Conducting the camp are Rev. Sydney A. Walker of Baker, Rev. Mark A. Talney, La Grande, Rev. John Walpole of Pilot Rock, and Rev. Earle P. Cochran, Pendleton, assisted by Mrs. Lyle Johnson, La Grande, Mrs. E. P. Cochran, Pendleton, and Mrs. S. A. Walker, Baker.

On the faculty are Dr. John Anderson of the College of Idaho, Lyle Johnson of La Grande, Charles Eble, Pendleton, Mrs. E. P. Cochran, Rev. Fred Swanson of Burns, and Mrs. J. Moser of the foreign missions board, and Dr. LeRoy Walter, supervisor of Christian education for Oregon.

AIRFORCE DAY SET

WASHINGTON, July 23 (UP)—President Truman today proclaimed Aug. 1 airforce day.



INAUGURAL FLIGHT COMPLETED—Passengers and officials of Eastern Oregon Airways are shown immediately after landing of the inaugural daily charter trip to Portland Saturday morning. Left to right are Merlin Johnson, who piloted the plane; Harry McCarthy, La Grande business man and proprietor of Trotters men's store; Raymond Gay, president of the La Grande chamber of commerce and manager of the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company, and Keith Province, co-operator of the airway with Johnson. Province was on hand at Beaverton air field to greet the arriving plane. Frank Schiro, publisher of the Observer, who also made the trip, is not shown in the photograph. Plane left here at 7 a. m., passengers arrived in downtown Portland at 10 a. m. Return trip took two hours and 50 minutes.

La Grande Has "Adequate Transportation" In All Fields Now, with Airline, Says Gray

"La Grande can now feel that it has adequate transportation of all types for business and personal requirements," Raymond Gray, president of the chamber of commerce, said this morning, in commenting on the institution of the daily charter flight trip to Portland from the municipal air field, and return.

Gray, who made the trip with other La Grande businessmen,

shown in the accompanying photograph, declared the trip well-worth while from a scenic point of view.

"I must say, however, that at no point during the trip did I see a valley to compare with the Grande Ronde valley and its surrounding mountains. We, who live here, should feel grateful for its assets.

"We flew cross country, sight-

ing the Columbia river somewhere near The Dalles and then entered the gorge about 40 miles further on. We got a good view of the river in all its beauty and Bonneville dam. An unusual feature of the trip was seeing the numerous water falls from the air.

"We were enabled to obtain a good idea of Oregon terrain nearly across the state. The trip was smooth and well handled."

Cherry, Pea Harvests Begin

The Pumpkin Ridge Cherry growers announce their warehouse at Imbler will start receiving cherries Tuesday.

Growers are cautioned, however, not to bring in fruit until it is fully ripened. If they are in doubt they should check with the warehouse before picking. Boxes are available at the warehouse.

Ray Wilson, of Imbler, is in charge of receiving the fruit for the Paulus Bros. Cannery, at Salem. Union started receiving last Friday and it is understood Cove will also start soon. La Grande growers can haul either to Imbler or Union.

Word has been received from the farm food administration, that a ceiling price of 3 1/2 cents a pound has been approved for picking in all Union county. As a whole the crop is very good this year and harvesting will last three or four weeks in the larger orchards.

About 850 to 1,000 tons will be harvested in the county this year, it was estimated by Chase Bohnecamp of the cherry growers group, but none of them will be shipped east in the fresh state. Last year about 16 carloads were shipped out, but this year all will go to the cannery.

Connally Urges Charter Adoption

WASHINGTON, July 23 (UP)—Chairman Tom Connally, D-Tex., of the senate foreign relations committee today asked the senate to ratify the United Nations charter with an emphasis that will ring as "a shout for peace heard round the world."

Connally formally opened senate debate which is expected to result in overwhelming ratification by the end of the week.

Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, R-Mich., who served with Connally as a delegate to the San Francisco conference which drafted the charter as "an exercise of this senate's duty."

Forester Can't Get Away From Fires

SALEM, July 23 (UP)—State Forester Nels S. Rogers can't seem to get away from fires—even at home.

No sooner had he returned to his home Sunday from the 60,000 acre Wilson river blaze, than the frantic calls of a neighbor called him to a blaze next door.

Rogers pitched in to help quench the flames, but this time, however, other firefighters also were on the job and Salem fire department took over the task.

75 Youths Attend Swimming Classes At Pine Cone Pool

More than 75 young persons, some accompanied by their parents, were at Pine Cone swimming pool at 1 o'clock this afternoon to take full advantage of the opportunity to learn to swim or to improve the technique, offered by the Red Cross during this week and next.

Mrs. Anita Jasper of Portland, sent here by the national Red Cross, and Harvey Carter of La Grande, are instructing the children.

Many children made the three mile trip on bicycles, cars were filled to the bursting point with eager, potential swimmers, and a large truck filled with boys was seen enroute to the pool.

The swimmers were being divided into three groups, the beginners, from 1 to 2 o'clock, those whose swimming prowess made it possible to negotiate the full width of the pool were to be instructed from two to three, and the advanced swimmers were scheduled for the following hour, 3 to 4 p.m.

William E. Conarty Dies Here Sunday; Native of Kansas

Death came to William Edward Conarty of Union, 64, at a hospital here yesterday. He was born June 21, 1881 at Norton, Kansas, and had been a resident of Union county for 64 years.

He leaves four sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips and Mrs. Anna Horton, both of Union, Mrs. Jane Johnson of Walla Walla, Wash., Mrs. Eva Parker of Compton, Calif., and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral announcements will be made later.

Seven Transports Bring 3,054 Men

NEW YORK, July 23 (UP)—Seven transports were arriving today with 3,054 troops from Europe. First it was the Empire MacDermott carrying 54 GIs, including liberated prisoners of war.

The units returning will include the 13th armored division, 67th armored infantry battalion, 124th armored engineer battalion, 46th tank battalion, and an ordnance detachment of the 135th armored ordnance maintenance battalion.

New Fires Break in Tillamook

PORTLAND, July 23 (UP)—Forest fires in western Oregon today spread over a 140-square mile area comprising 90,000 acres, with new wind-borne spot fires breaking out in some nearly inaccessible country.

The Tillamook fire jumped another four miles to the west to reach the Salmonberry-Nehalem river fork—an area where there are no roads and fighters can get in only after a half day on the pack trail.

Rains Help

Weekend showers slowed the advance of the fires temporarily but more than 2,000 firefighters, including sailors and soldiers, were struggling to hold fire lines.

The fire advanced on the east side of the Washington Tillamook county line toward the railroad between Coehran and timber. Walter McCulloch of the Oregon State college forestry school staff, said rains had helped in this area and he believed the line could be held at the railroad grade.

McCulloch said the Standard logging company operations south of Coehran has been burned out completely.

New Area

Logging operations in new fire territory included McKinney, Menefol and Erickson. Loggers fought a new outbreak in logging holdings north of the Nehalem.

There are large stands of green timber outside the old burn across the Nehalem at the northwestern edge of the new burn where fighters were working today. The country is so rough supplies cannot be dropped in by plane.

Assistant state forester John Woods, jr., was taking 300 navy men and logger "overhead" at the southwestern hot spot up Jordan creek in an attempt to circle that blaze in the Portland mills camp area. The region was quiet by the rain.

Dry Again

On the southern front, fighters hoped to join fire trails from Jordan creek east to the Stimson camp where rains have given soldiers and loggers a chance.

Return of warm weather was drying up the woods again and forest officials warned a brisk wind fanning the flames on virtually all fronts.

The fire at the Consolidated timber company at Glenwood was much quieter today, although smoke continued to blanket the area.

Not Over

McCulloch, owl fire camp dispatcher, declared "from here on in it will be a desperate race to extend fire lines before the weather could take the play away from firefighters."

McCulloch said the main fire, the Wilson river blaze, was just as tough as it ever was, with spot fire still raging.

"A little sprinkle doesn't put out a fire in logs five or six feet in diameter," McCulloch explained.

"All For France," Cries Petain . . . Aged Marshal Makes Plea For Justice

PARIS, July 23 (UP)—Marshal Henri Philippe Petain told the French high court of justice trying him for treason today he signed the 1940 armistice with Germany "in order to save France and help the allied victory."



STARS AND STRIPES RAISED OVER BERLIN—Party watching Stars and Stripes being raised over U. S. group control camp in Berlin includes Gen. George S. Patton, jr., President Harry S. Truman, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Gen. Omar Bradley and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Old Glory is same flag which flew over White House in Washington when U. S. declared war on Germany, Japs, and has flown in Rome.

Three Union Boys Take Prizes In Crop Contest

Three Union county boys, Ehrman Bates, Wayne Berry, and Norman Wells, were among the 10 winners of the weed and crops identification contest at the annual eastern Oregon 4-H livestock and crops tour Friday and Saturday.

Bates, with 23 of 26 possible points, received first place; Mark White, Malheur county, was in second place with 21 points; Berry, with 20 points, was in third place, and Wells received fourth place with 19 points.

Other Winners

Other six winners are: Jack Eichel, Wallowa county, 18; Bobby McBroom, Baker county, 17; John Madison, Umatilla, 17; David Dennis, Baker, 16; Oliver Keerins, Grant, 16; and Erwin Bush, Malheur, 15.

The tour was held in the eastern Oregon experiment station at Union, and classes included branding, dehorning, rope halters, tying livestock, beef judging and range management.

115 Attend

The two-day school was concluded with a swimming party at Cove Saturday afternoon.

Approximately 115 boys attended the school, with 63 from Union county, under leadership of Price Schroeder, assistant county agent in charge of 4-H club work.

L. J. Allen, assistant state 4-H leader, and H. G. Avery, superintendent of the eastern Oregon experiment station, were in charge of the tour.

Truman Hopes Talks Over by Mid-week

POTSDAM, July 23 (UP)—An American spokesman said the big three are "driving ahead" at a meeting rounding out the first week of the conference today, and President Truman is reportedly hoping to wind up the meeting by mid-week.

Prime Minister Churchill was reported giving a state dinner tonight for Truman and Generalissimo Stalin. The Soviet premier was host at a state dinner last night and the president was last week.

Nephi Combs New Sunday School Head in LDS

Nephi Combs was elected Sunday school superintendent at the annual conference of the first ward, church of Latter Day Saints Saturday.

Jay Smith Hendrickson was elected first assistant and John Bagley second assistant. Other officers are: Eunice Shirliff, superintendent of the relief society; Roscinun Richeson, first counselor; Katrina Jensen, second counselor and Alice Orton, secretary-treasurer.

The morning session of the conference was for the young people, the 4 o'clock meeting was a session of instruction and the evening was given to sermons and testimonies.

Other Speakers

Speakers other than the stake president, C. Lloyd Welch, were Thomas Hunt of Baker, Melvin Westenskow, and Bishop Walter A. Lindsay, both of La Grande, and all speaking on the executive division.

Returned soldiers who addressed the conference were Lt. Col. Walter A. Bean who spent three years in the south Pacific, Oscar Welch of the navy who participated in the Okinawa and Philippines campaigns, and Claude L. Westenskow, recently returned from Germany.

Full Choir

Elder Wale of the Seattle stake and Helen S. Bean stake president, of relief society also made addresses to the conference. At the evening meeting the full choir, 32 voices, presented a number of selections for the enjoyment of the group. Miss Lynn Russell was soloist at the morning session.

Creeping Slowly in One Area

After a 72 hour battle, forest service men and volunteers from Union, Willowa and Baker county area expect to have the forest fire on Little Minam river under control by this afternoon.

Breaking out Friday after lightning had started the smouldering a day or so before, the fire had spread to 700 to 800 acres in extent by Sunday night. It was still creeping slowly today but had nearly been ringed by the 140 rangers, brush crews, ranchers, hay crews, mill men and woodsmen.

Soldiers Also

Mobilized from the vicinity of Union, Baker and in Willowa county, the men are under the directions of L. E. Chapman, Charles Arlington, fire control assistant, at Baker, said.

Residents in the vicinity of the fire also reported soldiers from Walla Walla had been sent into the area to help, but their numbers were not ascertained. It was said there was only a small detachment.

The fire was entirely confined to the Whitman national forest area and commercial value of the timber there is not high. Most of it is fir, spruce, tamarack and lodgepole pine.

More Supplies

Only hand tools can be used to encircle the area with a fire line, Arlington said, because of the rugged terrain. "Several truck loads of supplies sent to the Moss spring base of the forest service were 'backed in' to the fire fighters.

High humidity has aided the fire fighters considerably and lack and wind has also been of service. But the humidity also held the smoke low over the area and army fliers who surveyed the area were unable to make out the exact outlines of the flame covered area. Two planes covered the ravaged sections.

Hold Over

The fire was started by lightning and is a "holdover" from the electric storms of about four or five days ago, Arlington said. The lightning started the fire to smouldering and when conditions were right the flames burst loose.

A fire which was caused in the same way and covered 30 acres on Pole creek in the Pine ranger district east of Little Minam was brought under control Sunday. The fire had broken out Saturday night.

Cub Scouts Start Scrap Campaign In La Grande

La Grande Cub Scouts today started in their campaign to enlist as many residents here as possible in the tin can and scrap paper drive which will be culminated Friday and Saturday in the pickup by the salvage committee trucks of packaged paper and flattened tin cans.

The Scouts will call on householders to remind them of the pickup and to give assistance. An estimated 2,000,000 pounds of scrap paper, value at \$15,000, and some 80 tons of tin cans, were thrown into the fight against Japan as William A. Bowes, Portland city commissioner and general chairman of the shrine hospital salvage drive, revealed results from the largest combined scrap drive in Portland's history.

The week-end salvage drive, staged for the benefit of the shrine hospital for crippled children, failed to reach the total of 1,700 tons of paper collected in a 1944 drive, which placed Portland into the lead nationally on a per capita basis in the collection of scrap paper. More than 400 teamsters, 100 Vancouver barracks soldiers and troops of boy scouts aided.

OIL FROM PINE ROOTS

CHUNGKING, July 23 (UP)—A refinery for reducing oil from pine roots has been established in Ningtu to ease a shortage of motor fuels in Kiangsi province, the Chinese central news agency said today.