

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.
Temperature:
Maximum 102
Minimum 57
Forecast: Partly cloudy with scattered thunder storms; clear tonight and Sunday. Slightly cooler Sunday.

La Grande Evening Observer
HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallawa Counties

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 28, 1945

FIVE CENTS



OVERWHELMING CHOICE—Their smiles reflecting labor party's sweeping victory over conservatives, Clement R. Attlee, labor party leader, and wife (foreground) are cheered by supporters at Mile End, London, after Attlee's election as member of parliament from Limehouse. Attlee succeeds Winston Churchill as prime minister.

Haying Accident Proves Fatal To John E. Thompson

John Elmer Thompson, 56-year-old farmer of Union, died yesterday at a hospital here following an accident at his farm late in the morning.

Thompson was driving a team of horses on a buck rake, when the horses ran away, and in trying to head off the horses, Thompson was pierced from the lower chest through his right shoulder with a rake tooth.

Death followed a few hours later.

He leaves his wife, Maude; five step-children, Mrs. Ora Giesenhaver of Union, James Calhoun of Caldwell, Ida, Lester Calhoun of Castletown, Ida, Mrs. Ann Essy of Tamark, Ida, and Mrs. Hazel Samueison of Levele, Utah; a brother and five sisters, George Thompson, Emma Jackson, Florence Brendle, all of Lebanon; Alice Huston of Payette, Ida, Lu-Lu Davis of Oregon City, Ann Barc of Riggins, Ida, 12 step-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Thompson was born Aug. 22, 1888 in Council, Ida, and had resided in the Union district for the past four years.

Funeral services will be at 2 p. m., Tuesday, July 31, in the Methodist church in Union, with Rev. O. A. Fournier officiating. Burial will be in Union cemetery.

Sea-Air Battle Rages Off Malaya

MANILA, July 28 (UP)—Radio Tokyo said today a fierce air-sea battle was raging off the Malay Peninsula as allied troops for the fifth day persisted in their attempts to invade Paket island.

The Japanese Domei agency claimed enemy suicide planes had sunk "one allied cruiser and heavily damaged another which was probably a converted aircraft carrier."

Domei said the allied naval task force had pushed in close support of a second landing Thursday and today its heavy guns are raking shore installations.

BULLETINS

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28 (UP)—Seven huge task forces of Superfortresses, fulfilling America's unprecedented notification to the enemy, early Sunday (Tokyo time) bombed six of the 11 Japanese cities which had been warned by leaflet of impending doom. NBC correspondents reported today.

POTSDAM, July 28 (UP)—The big three conference was resumed tonight after Prime Minister Clement Attlee returned from his election in Britain and made social calls on President Truman and Premier Stalin.

WASHINGTON, July 28 (UP)—The senate today ratified the United Nations charter. The vote for ratification was 89 to 2. Negative votes were cast by Sens. William Langer, N. D., and Henrik Shipstead, Minn.

Kweilin Retaken By Chinese Troops

CHUNGKING, July 28 (UP)—The Chinese communists tonight reported Kweilin, the former great American airbase city in Kwangsi province, has been recaptured by Chinese forces.

The re-occupation of the city was completed at 10 p. m. yesterday, the communists reported, by troops under the command of Gen. Tang En-Po. Japanese forces were reported fleeing to the northwest with Chinese in hot pursuit in hope of annihilating the Japanese.

Navy Announces Two Ship Losses

WASHINGTON, July 28 (UP)—The navy today announced the loss of a medium landing ship and a submarine chaser.

The landing ship, LSN-59, was lost in the Okinawa area as a result of enemy action. Two enlisted men were wounded. Their next of kin have been notified. Normal wartime complement of the ship is 58 men.

The submarine, SC-521, was lost as the result of a marine disaster in the south Pacific area. Wartime complement of a submarine is 27 men. Loss of the two craft brought to 327 the number of naval vessels lost from all causes in this war.

Skinner of the LSM-59, was Lt. David G. Hawley Kansas City. He is not a casualty.

The navy listed two skippers for the SC-521. A change of command was due to take place at the time of that vessel's loss, and the navy said it did not know which man was actually in charge. The two men are Lt. (jg) Granger H. Frost, Tarrytown, N. Y., who was due to relieve Lt. (jg) Chester R. Partridge, Long Beach, Calif. Both men were listed as dead.

DO NOT REMOVE

NEW YORK, July 28 (UP)—Rescue workers poking through smoldering rubble of the 79th floor of the Empire State building found a small cat, its edges charred. It read: "Do not remove from plane No. 577."

Sgt. Mitchell Asla Discharged on Points

Sgt. Mitchell Asla, son of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Asla, sr., arrived in La Grande yesterday with an honorable discharge from the army under the point system, having 114 points to his credit, and after having served in the army since September, 1940 when he left La Grande with the national guards.

He has seven gold service stripes for three and one-half years of overseas service, and two stripes for three years each. Sergeant Asla has ribbons for the Pacific-Arctic theater of operations, the American defense, the Purple Heart for wounds received at Biak, for the Philippines campaign, the Good Conduct medal, the combat infantryman's badge, and has three bronze and one silver battle stars.

Prior to entering the service, Asla was employed in La Grande as an electrician. His plans for the immediate future are indefinite. He has two brothers in the

Plane Smacks into Empire State Building on 78th Floor; 13 Killed

Attlee Promises 'Mandate Will Be Carried Out'

Some Appointments To Cabinet Jobs Cause Surprise

LONDON, July 28 (UP)—Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin left for Potsdam to resume big three discussions today after Attlee told a cheering assembly of his labor supporters there would be no pussyfooting in his administration "and the battle will be a tough one."

Attlee and Bevin left by plane for Potsdam shortly after formally assuming office. Before he left, however, he addressed a gathering of the 393 newly elected labor members of commons.

Confidence

They shouted a vote of confidence to the new premier at the notion of Bevin.

"Our honeymoon will be a short one," Attlee said, "and then make no mistake about it, the fighting will start."

"We now have the clearest mandate from the people and we are going straight ahead."

Attlee said he is picking the strongest possible cabinet and will not hesitate to change ministers who do not succeed.

New Blood

Attlee warmly welcomed the infusion of new blood in the labor party. Many of the members of parliament elected in the sweet are young laborites with no previous parliamentary experience.

It was a hectic day for normally shy and retiring Attlee. He and the six key members of his government already picked were sworn in at a privy council convoked by King George at Buckingham Palace. He then went direct to the labor party meeting and returned to No. 10 Downing street for two hours of conferences.

New Program

There was slight surprise: Herbert Morrison, named leader of the house of commons and appointed lord president of council, didn't receive higher cabinet recognition.

However, his appointment as house leader signified he will be assigned the all important task of whipping through the house the sweeping domestic program.

Attlee, like Churchill, retained the posts of first lord of the treasury and minister of defense.

Dalton, Cripps

Hugh Dalton, 51, president of the board of trade under Churchill, was named chancellor of the exchequer. This corresponds to secretary of the treasury in the United States.

Sir Stafford Cripps 56, and one of the most highly respected men in labor's ranks, became president of the board of trade post, which corresponds to the U. S. secretary of commerce.

Arthur Greenwood, 65, who held the minister without portfolio under Churchill until he resigned without explanation, was appointed lord privy seal.



PLAN WEST COAST CAR PRODUCTION — Henry J. Kaiser, president Kaiser corporation, (left) and Joseph W. Frazer, president of Graham Paige corporation, at Richmond, Calif., shipyard discuss plans for manufacture on west coast of small, low cost car, to be called "The Kaiser."

Outlook for Reconversion in West Bright; Three Problems

WASHINGTON, July 28 (UP)—The outlook for reconversion is generally bright but three serious problems must be solved before civilian production can be stepped up, according to war production board chief J. A. Krug.

"Our nation is still engaged in the toughest war in its history," he said, "many materials are in tight supply and the military has first call on them."

More Men

The nation's No. 1 problem, he said, is the crisis in railroad transportation which can be met only

Next, he said, aircraft production is threatened by a serious migration of workers to peacetime jobs. This trend will spread to other industries which cannot convert to peacetime production.

Finally tin is a "desperately tight" raw material and further controls on its use may have to be invoked.

More Textiles

On the credit side, Krug said textile production should increase steadily from now on. Manpower shortages which have been the major cause of insufficient production are checked.

He said this year's new passenger automobile quotas should be met without any trouble although the bulk of 1945 production will not come until the last few weeks of the year.

His summary of the production situation was made largely on the basis of a tour of industrial centers in the west from which he has just returned.

Lose Workers

He said unless congress passes an unemployment compensation law which will relieve unemployment fears of war workers there will be new manpower crises in production and inevitably slow reconversion. Some aircraft plants are already behind he said. On the west coast, he added, every plant is losing more workers than can be spared without sacrificing scheduled plane output.

In all the cities he visited Krug said he found no need for workers to fear unemployment for some time. In spite of substantial cutbacks in aircraft and ship production, he said, virtually all of their productive capacity is being used.

South Forty Club Plans Annual Tour

Annual crops tour and picnic for the South Forty club will be held tomorrow at the Eastern Oregon experiment station at Union, it was announced today.

H. G. Avery, superintendent of the experiment station, will conduct the tour for the club, which is composed of young Union county farmers. The club, organized in 1935, meets every month to study technical, economic, and social problems.

The committee in charge consists of Clayton Fox, Arthur McCab, Robert Becker, and Cletus Hohnstadt.

B-25 Explodes, Flames Trap Hundreds in Offices 1,000 Feet High; Caused by Fog

NEW YORK, July 28 (UP)—A B-25 bomber crashed and exploded in the 78th floor of the Empire State building today and the upper part of the tallest building in the world instantly became a blazing inferno for hundreds of office workers 1,000 feet above the street.

The plane was lost in a fog when it struck. It broke into a giant, spectacular burst of flame. The explosion rocked midtown Manhattan.

Two hours later police reported at least 13 dead. Flames raged out of control in six floors of the building for 40 minutes. Three elevators crashed from the 80th floor to the ground. Glass and debris rained into the street.

The plane struck the north side of the building, penetrated a wing of the floor, destroyed everything in its path and went out the south wing of the building. Part of it landed on the roof of the 12-story Waldorf building on 33rd street.

Carriers Hit Again

By WILLIAM F. TYREE

GUAM, July 28 (UP)—Greatest carrier strike in history turned Nippon's inland sea into a graveyard of wrecked and burning Japanese ships today as some 2,000 warplanes of Admiral William F. Halsey's third fleet resumed the attack on the Kure naval base.

Slamming in at dawn through a skyful of flak and fighters, Halsey's American and British fliers blazed a new trail of death and ruin across waters still dotted with the hulks of 308 enemy ships smashed in the onslaught Tuesday and Wednesday.

Finish Job

The first wave of attacking dive bombers spotted the 39,000-ton battleship Hyuga lying on the sandy bottom of Nasaka Jima harbor, outside Kure, her decks awash and her superstructure burned out.

The great ship and 22 other warships, the last major fighting force in the Imperial navy, were holed by allied bombs and rocket fire Tuesday.

Preliminary reports from the great battle fleet maneuvering almost within sight of the Honshu coast said Halsey's fliers had finished today the job they started Tuesday—complete neutralization of the Japanese fleet.

See Earlier Peace

Every single major enemy warship was believed to have been sunk or knocked out of action at least temporarily, if not for the duration of the war.

Halsey opened his fleet strike on Japan almost three weeks ago with a three-fold purpose: To beat down the enemy's air force, to strike the birth-to-immune northern areas of Japan, and to silence the Japanese warships whose big guns might have played havoc with an invading fleet.

All three aims have now been accomplished and the possibilities of an early peace have greatly increased.

Other Officers Elected

Other officers elected were Oliver J. Gill, Pendleton, business manager; and Mrs. S. E. Smutz, Cove, dean of women.

Approximately 165 delegates were present at the institute, 76 of whom were from La Grande. The First Methodist church sent 32 delegates, and the Fir street Methodist church had 24 present for the conference.

Mrs. Hattie Ruttan, 84, Dies at Home; At Elgin 36 Years

By JAMES W. IRWIN

NEW YORK, July 28 (UP)—At about 10 a. m. today I was sitting alone in my office on the 75th floor of the Empire State building. Outside the windows there was a dense fog.

The roar of airplanes going overhead is a familiar sound, but this morning I heard one coming that seemed to be headed right my way.

I ran into the hall as the roar increased. Just as I hit the hall the plane struck.

Isolated. A girl elevator operator had just opened the door of the elevator shaft on my floor. The blast blew her all the way across the hall.

Fire Out Of Hand

PORTLAND, July 28 (UP)—Dry winds today catapulted the Tillamook fire in western Oregon out of control and past the 200,000 acre mark.

There is every prospect the fire will surpass the 240,000 acre Tillamook burn of 1933, worst fire in the modern history of Pacific northwest.

The inferno defied more than 2,000 fire fighters and raced north into Clatsop county and east and south nearly 25 miles away into Washington county. Many fire trails, held since rains a week ago, had to be abandoned as fire crews retreated to save equipment and lives. Three lives already have been lost.

Much Timber

The perimeter of the fire exceeds the total area of the 1933 fire but unburned spots kept the estimated burned area at about 200,000 acres. It was less than 100,000 acres only two days ago. Much green timber is being destroyed, as well as second growth covering the burns of 1933 and 1939.

The Consolidated Timber company's camp near Glenwood was still standing although surrounded on two sides. Fire hoses played on the mill and buildings to ward off sparks and heat.

Stimson's camp west of the base line guard station was endangered.

Pall Great

The pall of smoke was so great it was impossible to determine how far the flames have swept down the Trask river toward the Siuslaw national forest 10 or 15 miles away. Federal forest crews were preparing for a giant backfire operation to pre-

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Shower Helps To Break Heat Wave

Eastern Oregon residents are hoping the trace of rain which fell this morning may break the heat wave which has oppressed the city lately, and their hopes may be realized, since weather forecasts predict "cloudy and cooler" weather.

Yesterday was the hottest day of the year so far, with a temperature of 102, and was the hottest July 27 La Grande has had since 1939, when a temperature of 108 was registered.

California Added To Damaged List

WASHINGTON, July 28 (UP)—The battleship California was added today to the navy's list of U. S. warships publicly revealed to have been victims of Japanese suicide plane attacks.

The 36,000-ton battlewagon, which is 24 years old, was hit by suicide plane Jan. 9, 1945, during the battle of Lingayen gulf. Six officers and 39 enlisted men were killed, three more were reported missing and 155 were wounded.

The California is now back in action, the navy added.

SIGNS EXTRADITION

SALEM, July 28 (UP)—Gov. Earl Snell today signed extradition for Chauncy Draper, who is wanted in Pric, Utah on charges of non-support. Draper is being held in Salem for Utah police.

Offices Empty

Six of the dead were reported to be soldiers, some of whom presumably were members of the plane crew of five.

Only the fact it was Saturday morning, when many offices are closed, prevented a far greater disaster.

The 78th floor was unoccupied. On the 79th floor, occupied by offices of the war relief service of the national council welfare council, several persons were killed. Nine bodies were found on the 79th floor. Three bodies were taken from two of the fall-elevators. The third was empty.

Huge Crowd

An enormous crowd gathered in the street and the largest amount of fire fighting apparatus ever assembled in New York City was rushed out in four fire alarms. Glass and debris continued to shower down for almost an hour. The 34th street foyer of the building was converted into an emergency receiving station. Bellevue hospital sent all available doctors, nurses and disaster equipment.

First reporters to fight their way up past the smoke-clouded 69th floor found the cowl of the plane still stuck to the side of the building. The point where the plane struck was near a bank of 10 elevators. All floors from the 69th to the 79th were littered with debris.

About 20 feet inside the window nearest where the plane struck lay one of the B-25 engines and half a propeller. A fragment of a propeller was imbedded in a wall.

Office windows were shattered 10 floors up and 10 floor below the 78th story. A stream of firemen, police, priests, doctors and nurses moved up and down the stairs. Six charred bodies lay in or near the Catholic welfare offices.

Mayor LaGuardia said the plane was "flying too low." City regulations forbid fewer than 5,000 feet over the city, he said.

Saw Approach

Eye-witnesses said the plane zoomed down Fifth avenue, apparently in trouble. Nanette Morrison, typist in the office of Carl Byer associates, publicists, was gazing out the window as

See B-25 EXPLODES . . . Page 7

Crash of Plane 'No Surprise' Occupant of 75th Floor Office 'Lucky'

By JAMES W. IRWIN

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I ran into the hall as the roar increased. Just as I hit the hall the plane struck.

Isolated. A girl elevator operator had just opened the door of the elevator shaft on my floor. The blast blew her all the way across the hall.

She is in the next office as I dictate this to the United Press. No first aid has reached us yet. We are isolated.

There are at least 11 other casualties on this floor alone. Mostly women, some of them badly burned.