

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a.m.
Temperature:
Maximum 91
Minimum 43
Forecast: Clear tonight and Tuesday. Cooler extreme eastern portion.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Wallowa Counties

A Community Newspaper For Every Member of the Family

ESTABLISHED 1896

LA GRANDE, OREGON MONDAY EVENING, JULY 30, 1945

FIVE CENTS

Rains Aid Control Of Fires

PORTLAND, July 30 (UP) — Clouded skies and rising humidity aided 1,200 fire-fighters in holding their own against advancing flames of the raging three week western Oregon forest fire.

State Forester Ted Rainwater said fire crews are building extensive fire trails and blocking breakthroughs to safeguard fire fighters should wind velocity increase.

Rainwater said the fire, now in its fourth week, was extended over 200,000 acres. Light rains fell over some sections of the fire area Sunday.

Unscouted Major efforts were directed toward preventing any major breakthrough to the sea or inland communities. The far western sector of the fire in headwaters of the Kilchis river is unscouted but is burning no green timber.

Mountainous country is handicapping fighters severely. Two bulldozers were lost temporarily in the water shed of Forest Grove, and the upper reaches of the Tualatin river in Washington county. Owl camp headquarters in the coast range expected fire lines to be completed by night around the advances on the eastern edge of the fire.

Fire Slower On the northern front in Clatsop county, the flames have slowed their pace in the Spruce Run creek sector, and loggers are pushing fire trails through.

A blanket of smoke has prevented scouts from determining the exact extent of the burn. Much of the area was a patchwork of spot fires that can merge if weather conditions become unfavorable. The situation was described as similar to those a week ago when rain slowed the fire and prevented new outbreaks.

The polk county fire was reported in the mopping up stage.

Accidents Kill 3 Near Salem Over Last Weekend

SALEM, July 30 (UP)—Three persons died in Marion county over the week end as the result of accidents, state police reported today.

Joe Williams, 25, Aumsville, and Mrs. Clara L. McKenzie, 55, Walport, were killed when a charge of dynamite was exploded prematurely on a farm east of Marion, late Saturday.

Luther Lea, 39, Stayton, was injured in the blast, which was caused when a loose dynamite cap fell on six sticks of the explosive which were being lowered into a well by Williams.

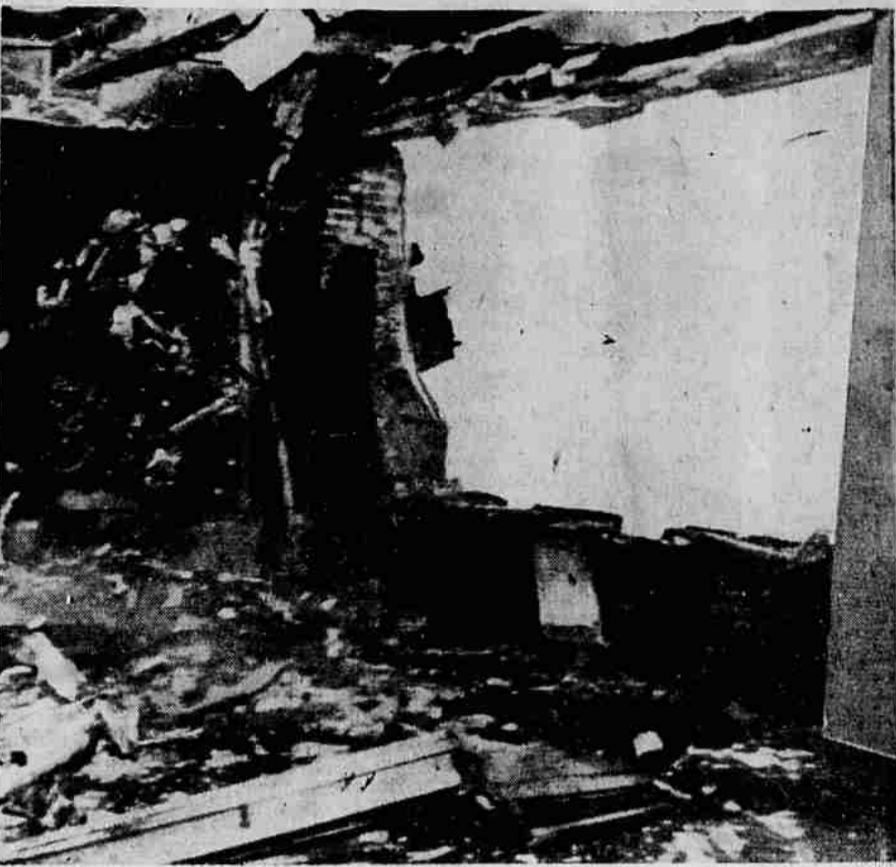
Howard Locke, 17, Independence, was killed and G. J. Hildebrand, also of Independence, was hospitalized when the car driven by Hildebrand overturned while going around a turn Saturday night.

Bank Messengers Robbed of \$100,000

BURBANK, Calif., July 30 (UP)—Two messengers of the Hollywood state bank were held up today and robbed of \$100,000 cash they were delivering to a check-cashing agency near Lockheed aircraft corporation, police reported.

Bulletin

CHICAGO, July 30 (UP)—Art Goering, Denver amateur, was the all-American amateur golf champion today when he sank a 10-foot putt on the 18th green for an even-par 72 and a four-round total of 282 strokes—one under flight officer Frank R. Stranahan of Ft. Myers, Fla., and Bob Cochran of St. Louis.



BOMBER CRASH LEAVES GAPING HOLE IN BUILDING—Empire State building office on 78th floor where B-25 bomber flying low in fog crashed. Main wreckage of plane bounced on roof of adjoining building, part then careening to pavement. Fire immediately broke out through five floors of world's tallest building, though low hanging fog made the conflagration obscure from street.

Half Million Loss In Empire State; Probe Promised

NEW YORK, July 30 (UP)—The Empire State building was reopened today as a special army air forces board pressed an investigation into the cause of the crash of a B-25 bomber into the world's tallest building which killed 13 persons.

Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia, a pilot in the first world war, bluntly blamed the dead pilot of the Mitchell bomber, Lt. Col. William F. Smith, jr., 27, Watertown, Mass.

Blames Pilot The bomber, flying over fog-shrouded New York Saturday morning, plunged into the 79th floor of the building, exploded and turned the skyscraper into a torch of flame high over the city.

Three Aboard Aboard the plane with Smith were S/Sgt. Christopher E. Domitrovich, 31, Granite City, Ill., crew member, and Aviation Machinist's Mate 2/c Albert G. Perna, 20, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a sailor who got aboard at Bedford, Mass. The plane was en route from Bedford to Newark, N. J.

Half Million Lt. Gen. Hugh A. Drum president of Empire State, Inc., said damage to the building can not be estimated yet. It was estimated unofficially, however, at \$500,000. He said the observation tower will remain closed indefinitely.

537 Jap Americans Return to Oregon

PORTLAND, July 30 (UP)—Oregon office of the war relocation authority today reported 537 Japanese-Americans and aliens have returned to Oregon since relaxation of the army's exclusion order on Jan. 2.

There were an estimated 4,000 Japanese in Oregon before they were relocated in 1942. The new figure showed a gain of 177 persons since the June 13 report.

Petitions Circulate Seeking Soil Conservation Plan Here

Petitions are being circulated this week for the formation of a soil conservation district in the Hot Lake, Ladd Canyon, and Union district, R. W. Schaad, Union county agricultural agent, announced today.

Petitions were distributed to members of the original soil conservation committee, which has been working on the project for more than two years, at a meeting Friday evening at Hot Lake sanitarium.

Only owners of land lying outside the city limits of La Grande are eligible to sign the petitions, it was announced. Minimum of 25 signatures are needed, after which the petitions will be presented to the state board of soil conservation for consideration. Word from the board is expected to arrive about a week following receipt of the petitions.

The purpose of forming a soil conservation district in this area is to aid drainage and land reclamation, including weed control.

Members of the committee and the districts they will cover are: Gilbert Courtright, Union and Telocast; J. C. Beddingfield, area southeast of Island City; Charles Grandy, Ladd Canyon; T. W. Bate, Hot Lake; and Royal Allen, Covs. There also will be one copy of the petition in the county agent's office in the Post Office building, for signatures of rural land owners residing in La Grande.

NEW EDITOR

SALEM, July 30 (UP)—J. Wesley Sullivan, discharged veteran and graduate of the university of Oregon journalism school, has accepted a position as news editor of the Oregon Statesman, Charles A. Sprague, editor and publisher, has announced.

Mates Tell of Cantrel's Battle Daring

Daring of a wounded marine flier who rallied his squadron in a hot aerial battle amid intense ack-ack over Honshu was described unofficially, however, at \$500,000. He said the observation tower will remain closed indefinitely.



CAPT. WILLIAM CANTREL—The major didn't know Cantrel was wounded and Cantrel didn't tell.

Japs 'Choose Disaster' As Third Fleet Strikes Again

Planes, Ships Leave Factory Areas Flaming

Big Three Meeting Nearly Over

POTSDAM, July 30 (UP)—The big three met again today and it is believed their conferences are within 24 to 36 hours of conclusion.

President Truman, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Attlee were reported working on a final communique but this was not expected to announce the military decisions reached.

The only word issuing from the conference compound today was: "The conference is still going on."

The dispatch did not speculate on the nature of the military decisions, but a CBS correspondent broadcast from London he believed one of the principal negotiators—obviously Russian—had said his country will go to war against Japan soon.

The big three conference obviously was in its closing stages and the communique was expected to be issued soon. An official statement yesterday said the conference was "progressing satisfactorily."

In addition to meeting Stalin and Attlee, Truman was conferring with Judge Samuel Rosenman, his special adviser, on the report to the nation which the president probably will deliver by radio within 24 hours of his return to Washington.

Elliott Roosevelt Asks For Release From Army Duty

WASHINGTON, July 30 (UP)—Elliott Roosevelt, who rose from captain to brigadier general in a little under five years, has asked the army to release him from active duty.

The 34-year-old officer, second son of the late President and center of more than one nationwide controversy, accumulated 278 discharge points in a career that included action in north Africa, Sicily, Italy, Britain and France. Eighty-five is minimum needed for discharge.

The war department said young Roosevelt's discharge application has been sent to Gen. H. H. Arnold army air force chief, but no action has yet been taken.

The department declined comment on published reports Roosevelt had been "advised" to retire from active service because of recent publicity over loans he negotiated while his father was chief executive.

Chennault Honored By Chinese Leader

CHUNGKING, July 30 (UP)—Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, retiring commander of the U. S. 14th air force, was awarded the order of the blue sky, one of China's highest decorations, as the climax of a dinner tonight at the home of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Chennault was honored for his leadership in the defense of China against Japanese bombers during the war.

Russians Say 'No Proof Hitler Dead'

BERLIN, July 30 (UP)—Col. Gen. Alexander V. Gorbatov said today there still is no definite proof Adolf Hitler is dead, and an investigation is continuing to determine whether he still is alive.

"We do not exclude the possibility that Hitler is still alive and in hiding," Gorbatov said at a press conference.

Truman Promises Yanks They'll 'Get Home Quickly'

POTSDAM, July 30 (UP)—President Harry S. Truman has promised American soldiers in the European theater they'll get home in a hurry, but not so quickly peace will be jeopardized.

Talking to a reporter for the army's daily "Stars and Stripes," Truman called the European occupation "temporary" and promised troops will be returned to the United States "as soon as conditions warrant."

Truman told the G. I. newsmen he was opposed to bringing soldiers' families to the European theater because he didn't want to have Americans settling in Europe.

Asked how long the Japanese war might last since Tokyo ignores the recent surrender ultimatum, Truman replied: "No man is smart enough to answer that one."

In discussing Japan, Truman said he is doing his part to end the war in offering the Japanese a final surrender opportunity.

He assured returning servicemen they will get jobs. He said if soldiers want to work, he thinks they will have "no very serious trouble in accomplishing that purpose" because he expects employers to be co-operative in rehiring veterans.

Truman announced he would put a new military policy before congress this fall, and said any discussion of peacetime conscription was impossible at this time.

Man Unhurt By Fall From Window

PORTLAND, July 30 (UP)—A fall from the second story window at his home while walking in his sleep Saturday night only tended to interfere with Claude Hoffman's slumbers.

When police asked him to go to a hospital to make sure no bones were broken, Hoffman laughed off the idea and climbed back into bed.

Hoffman, 45, of Baker, 17-year-old who was on the fire fighting crew on the Minam, today was flown from the Horse ranch to Baker for medical aid.

Kelth Province, pilot of the Interstate plane, made the trip in 25 minutes, and they were met at the Baker airport by an ambulance. It was thought early this morning that the lad was suffering from acute appendicitis, but upon arrival at the hospital it was found he was suffering some internal disorder.

FDR Promised To Send Aid in 1940, Herriot States

Tried to Keep Petain From Armistice

PARIS, July 30 (UP)—Former Premier Edouard Herriot testified today at the treason trial of Marshal Henri Philippe Petain President Roosevelt promised France material aid from America before the armistice with Germany was signed in 1940.

"I know Roosevelt was convinced he one day would ask the United States to enter the war," Herriot said in mustering arguments of the French republicans against the armistice Petain negotiated.

Petain himself was suffering from an acute attack of laryngitis, Judge Pierre Mongibeaux revealed in announcing the session of the trial today would be shortened, the strain on the 89-year-old marshal is becoming more evident daily.

Herriot, president of the chamber of deputies when France collapsed, was an imposing figure, as he worked up to an oratorical fervor, he gesticulated passionately, waved his arms and shouted:

"I believe in liberty, equality and fraternity. They are in the best traditions of France. But the men of Vichy took away the republican emblems.

"We became a full-fledged dictatorship." His report of Roosevelt's offer of material aid came as he argued against the necessity for an armistice and said French republicans wanted to try to save anything possible from the debacle.

"What could be saved from France?" he cried. "Firstly, our glorious fleet. Secondly, Algeria. Thirdly, our empire with our great soldiers. Fourthly, the republic."

Herriot said he talked with Churchill at Tours shortly before the armistice. He also talked with Premier Paul Reynaud, and told Reynaud he "would rather be shot by the Germans than despised by the French." He reiterated earlier testimony Petain agreed to a cabinet move to North Africa to continue resistance but said the agreement was broken as soon as the government left Bordeaux.

60 Attend South 40 Club Tour At Experiment Farm

Annual crops tour and picnic for the South Forty club was held yesterday at the Eastern Oregon experiment station at Union, R. W. Schaad, Union county agricultural agent, announced today.

Approximately 60 members of the club and their families were present for the tour, inspecting the cereal and forage plots on the station grounds in the morning, and holding their potluck picnic luncheon at noon.

H. G. Avery, superintendent of the experiment station, conducted the tour for the club, composed of ex-members of the 4-H club who are now young Union county farmers. The club was organized in 1935, and meets every month to study technical, economic, and social problems.

The committee in charge of the tour consisted of Clayton Fox, Arthur McCall, Robert Becker, and Cletus Hohstadt.

Fire Fighter Flown To Baker Hospital

John Rapp, jr., of Baker, 17-year-old who was on the fire fighting crew on the Minam, today was flown from the Horse ranch to Baker for medical aid.

PEARL HARBOR, July 30

(UP)—The mighty third fleet attacked the heart of Japan by air and sea again today, and an American admiral warned the Japanese they have deliberately chosen disaster.

More than 1,000 carrier-based planes swarmed across the Tokyo area, while the greatest industrial center of Hamamatsu went up in flames under a bold pre-naval bombardment.

Ready to Invade Rear admiral Dewitt C. Beese, chief of staff of the fifth fleet, in the first official fleet comment on Japan's rejection of the Potsdam declaration, warned the most overwhelming forces ever concentrated are preparing to invade the enemy homeland.

"It's a harsh fate our enemy has chosen," he said. "In the world history, there is no more glaring example of a nation imposing disaster upon itself.

"For these people, the language of bombs and guns apparently is the only convincing language."

A Japanese communique said 700 allied carrier planes had attacked "widespread points in the Tokyo area and adjacent prefectures since early morning.

Ships Attack Meanwhile the fast American battleship Massachusetts, the British battleship King George V, and a half-dozen or more other allied warships hurled 1,000 tons of shells into Hamamatsu, 135 miles southwest of Tokyo, in an unopposed hour-long bombardment from six miles off-shore.

The explosives hit the Imperial government railway shops, an airplane propeller factory, and other key targets. Shells severed the double-trunk railway lifeline linking Tokyo with the great war production centers of Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe.

Only a few hours after the bombardment ended, the planes took to the offensive. They attacked transport airfields and other military targets in the Tokyo area in relays beginning at dawn.

Three Raids Radio Tokyo reported three separate raids had been carried out by mid-morning. The first wave of 270 planes struck at 5:30 a.m., attacking for an hour and a half, the second attack, by 100 aircraft, came 20 minutes later, and a third followed soon afterward.

The air-sea, pre-invasion offensive was carried into its 21st day. Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced Anglo-American airmen of the third fleet had destroyed or damaged 283 planes and 189 ships, including 18 warships, Saturday.

No Ships Left This raised the fleet's total since July 10 to 915 Japanese ships and 1,211 planes damaged or destroyed.

A United Press dispatch from Admiral John S. McCain's flagship said Japan has no seaworthy warships left to defend the homeland against invasion. Nimitz said the battleships Haruna, Ise, and Hyuga had been sunk or damaged.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced more than 700 Okinawa-based bombers and fighters had attacked Japan Friday and Saturday. Four one-ton bombs hit the crippled Haruna and hits also were scored on a light cruiser, light carrier, and an escort carrier.

FUNERAL FOR FLIER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 30 (UP)—Col. William F. Smith, jr., pilot of the army bomber which crashed into the Empire State building Saturday, will be buried here, a member of the family said today.