

# REDS, JAPS AT WAR

## La Grande Evening Observer



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LA GRANDE, OREGON WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 8, 1945

FIVE CENTS

### Board Favors Swimming Pool at School

#### Would Allow Year 'Round Water Sport

Further suggestions for the development of a swimming pool in La Grande emanated from the regular meeting last night of the La Grande school board.

After consideration of all suggestions in regard to the swimming pool, the board passed the following resolution, according to Fred Patton, superintendent of the board:

Be it resolved that it is the opinion of the La Grande board of education that:

When the first public sponsored swimming pool is constructed it should be constructed on the high school grounds in La Grande; and that it should be a class A covered pool that can be used 12 months each year. It should be available to and a part of the compulsory physical education work of the high school and hours arranged for the use of the pool for all citizens of the community evenings and week-ends and full time during summer. Further,

The board stands ready to cooperate with any responsible agency to assist in financing and maintaining such a service to the community if the pool is provided on a basis as herein outlined.

#### Truman to Make Report to Nation Thursday Night

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—President Truman will report to the nation on the big three Berlin conference at 7 p. m. Thursday (p.wt). The White House said the address will be broadcast on all networks.

Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross said Truman will make a 30-minute address, in which he will go into greater detail about the historic Potsdam parley than was related in last week's official communique on the meeting.

Ross said the president will "mention" the new atomic bomb.

One of Truman's first appointments today — his first day in the White House since his return from Europe — was with Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. Ross said they discussed the fear-some new bomb.

The president's first press conference following the Berlin meeting will be held early next week, probably Monday or Tuesday, Ross said.

"He felt he ought to report to the people as a whole first," the press secretary explained.

#### Walter J. Green, 64, Stockman, Dies

Walter John Green, 64-year-old farmer and stockman of Union, died at his home Tuesday of a heart attack.

Funeral arrangements are pending until a son in the army is notified.

Green was born Oct. 14, 1880 in Lamar, Mo., and had lived in Union for 31 years.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel, two children, Willa Kathryn Johnson of Union, and Wendell W. in the U. S. air corps, one brother, Will, and a sister, Mrs. E. H. Miles of Union, as well as other relatives.

#### Postal Receipts Increase in July

Postal receipts for July, 1945, have shown an increase over those of July, 1944. Postmaster Victor Eckley announced today. Total receipts for last month were \$5,552.52, compared with \$5,482.35 for July of last year.

Other figures are: money orders paid, \$27,791.85; money orders issued, \$31,659.48; postal savings on deposit in 942 accounts, July 31, \$856,896, compared to \$839,469 June 30.

### "My God," Bomb Witnesses' Only Comment

GUAM, Aug. 8 (UP)—Here are the eye-witness stories of the men who dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan:

Col. Paul W. Tibbets, jr., 36, of Miami, pilot of the Superfortress Enola Gay.

"We selected Hiroshima as the target when we made the landfall. There was no opposition. Conditions were clear and we dropped the bomb visually at 0:15 a. m.

**Only Three**  
"Only Captain Parsons, bombardier Major Thomas W. Ferebee of Mocksville, N. C., and myself knew what dropped. Others only knew it was a special mission.

"We knew immediately we had to get the hell out of there and make a sharp turn in less than 30 seconds to get broadside to the target.

"Then it was hard to believe

what we saw.

"Below us, rising rapidly, was a tremendous black cloud, nothing was visible before only minutes before the outline of the city with its streets and buildings and waterfront piers were clearly apparent.

"It happened so fast we couldn't see anything and could only feel the heat from the flash and the concussion from the blast.

**Warning**  
"There were a couple of sharp slaps against the airplane. I felt like close bursts of flak. It yelled a warning to the crewmen, but we are all okay."

Capt. William Parsons, U. S. N., of Santa Fe, N. M., one of the designers of the bomb, who went along as "weapon repairer" to see that the bomb worked.

"The bomb resting in the bomb bay looked like the final test one we exploded less than a month ago—July 16—in a remote corner of the Alamogordo, N. M., bombing range.

"I have a very personal interest in the mission. We know when we started that success could only be measured in the first battle delivery on Japan.

**Shorian War**  
"We knew it was worth a lot in terms of shortening the war. When the bomb fell away, we began to put as much distance between us and the ball of fire which we knew was coming, as quickly as possible.

"There was a terrific flash of light—even in the daytime. Visual shock was apparent from several miles.

"That was the first indication I had that the bomb worked. Each man said a 'My God!' "What had been Hiroshima was going up in a mountain of smoke.

#### Gale Mills, 23, Cove Dies After 24 Hour Illness

COVE, Aug. 8 (Special)—Gale Mills, 23, veteran of World War 2, died at the home of his sister at Sunnyside, Wash., according to word received here early today. He had been ill less than 24 hours and was thought to have had infantile paralysis.

A native of Cove, he attended high school here and then went to Whitman college at Walla Walla. He had had a medical discharge from the army. Since leaving the army he had been working for his brother-in-law, Lloyd Amundson at Sunnyside.

His parents were notified early today Gale was sick, and a few minutes later received another telegram saying he was partly paralyzed. In just a few minutes more they were called by telephone and informed Gale had expired.

Besides his sister, he leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Mills; and two brothers, Gordon, now overseas, and Allen of Redmond. He is a member of the Episcopal church here.

#### Army Still Plans For Invasion Or Occupation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—The U. S. army still plans to land on the shores of Japan—either with occupational troops or with full scale invasion forces, depending on what the atomic bomb does to the Japanese will and power to go on fighting.

For the army to plan any other way, high officials believed today, would be to take unjustifiable risks.

For that reason, the war department has no intention—despite scattered congressional criticism—to cut the army below the 7,000,000 men and women which it has felt all along are essential to conquest of Japan.

Forty-eight hours after the historic announcements proclaiming the dawn of the atomic age, officials felt soberly constrained to point out the new era has yet to reach its zenith. The new bomb certainly should shorten the Japanese war, they feel, but the only way it can end the conflict abruptly is for the Japanese themselves to decide to quit.

This, some observers believed, they will be given a second chance to do before the full fury of atomic bomb assault is unleashed. Certainly the army is ready with plenty of the new bombs.

Understandably, officials felt, many persons may have jumped to the conclusion the atomic bomb will make it possible for the army to cut its size drastically. But the war department, which does not and cannot afford to believe in easy ways to victory, emphatically does not intend to sit back now.

### Atom Bomb Blast Kills 100,000

GUAM, Aug. 8 (UP)—Tokyo conceded today most of Hiroshima had been destroyed by a single American bomb Monday, leaving blasted and blistered corpses "too numerous to count."

"The impact of the bomb was so terrific practically all living things, human and animal, were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure," one Tokyo broadcast said.

**No Trace**  
American reconnaissance photographs confirmed four and one-tenth square miles — 60 percent of the built-up area — of Hiroshima had vanished almost without trace. Unofficial American sources estimated Japanese dead and wounded might exceed 100,000.

Scores of smaller factories, office buildings and dwellings were known to have been leveled. Only a few skeletons of concrete buildings remained. Additional damage outside the totally destroyed section still was being assessed.

Radio Tokyo, breaking its silence of more than 60 hours after the raid, said the "indescribable destructive power" of the bomb had crushed big buildings and small dwellings alike.

Inhabitants were killed by blast, fire and crumbling buildings, Tokyo said. Most bodies were so badly battered it was impossible to distinguish between men and women.

Strangely, the photographs showed no crater. However, Tokyo had reported the bomb was dropped by parachute and exploded in the air. It was likely the entire force of the blast was directed horizontally.

**Few Escaped**  
Although the built-up area of Hiroshima came to 6x9 square miles, the city as a whole totaled 12 square miles with a population of 318,000 — an average of 26,500 persons per square mile.

Few, if any, of the more than 100,000 persons in the totally devastated four square miles were believed to have escaped. The blast alone of the atomic bomb could kill persons within a four-mile range, and it was likely there were many casualties outside the utterly-destroyed section.

#### Pink Silk Panties May be Nice . . . But Not as Substitute for Men's Shorts

By FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—I don't care what the senator says, gents, waste no money on ladies' pink pants; they're no substitute for shorts.

You can't keep the darn things up. They've got lace on 'em.

I know what I am talking about. I walked into the lingerie department with eyes straight ahead while the ladies gawked. I bought a pair of pants, tea-rose color, for \$6.95. I beat it at once to the men's suit department on the floor below and tried on my new pants.

**In Trash Can**  
Then I tossed 'em in the trash can. Emergency or no, I do not recommend ladies' pants for men.

I walked down F street and looked into the stores, but it took me the whole two weeks to build up my courage. I finally made it. "I want a pair of pants," I told the lady behind the counter.

"What size does she wear?" the lady asked.

I broke down and told her I was the fellow who needed the pants. She didn't think I'd like ladies' pants, but if I insisted . . .

I did insist. She had some knitted pants, with elastic around the middle and the bottom of the legs, too, but none big enough for me. Maybe I would like a one-piece garment, she said.

**No, Not Really**  
What, I wondered, is the trick business at the top of it?

"The built-in brassiere," the clerk said. "Very practical."

But not, I pointed out, for me. She produced what she called a pair of dance pants, size large, and reached across the counter to see if same would stretch around my middle.

She didn't have to wait long. I plunked down my \$6.95 and got out of there with my new pants.

I borrowed a dressing room in the men's suit department and tried 'em on and we won't go into what I saw in the mirror.

**RECEIVES HARRIMAN**

LONDON, Aug. 8 (UP)—Moscow radio said tonight Generalissimo Stalin received W. Averell Harriman, U. S. ambassador.

### Major Bong, Greatest U. S. Ace, Comes Home to Stay

SUPERIOR, Wis., Aug. 8 (UP)—The greatest air ace this country ever had come home today to stay.

An army transport plane brought the body of Maj. Richard I. Bong in a flag-draped casket back to the shores of sky-blue Lake Superior where he roamed the woods as a boy. Bong, 24, became the nation's top flying ace by shooting down 40 Jap planes. He was killed Monday in the crash of a jet plane he was testing in California.

A silent crowd watched the big transport glide onto the runway at the airport. There were military dignitaries from Washington, young men who went to school with the war hero, and the plain folks from nearby Poplar where Bong grew up on a farm.

**His Father**  
There was Carl T. Bong, the major's father, who taught him how to shoot a rifle. There was Mrs. Glen Bryce, the flier's grandmother, whose cookie jar he raided regularly before he went away to war.

His brother Carl, 17, was wait-

ing at the airport, and so were two of his sisters, Nelda and Geraldine.

His best friend, Marvin Peterson, who runs the hardware store at Poplar, was there, assisting the family with the funeral plans.

His mother remained at her farm home, too overcome by the tragedy to come to the airport. She planned to attend the funeral in Superior this afternoon.

The flier's wife, who accompanied the body from California, was the first off the plane. She was dry-eyed and held her head

high. She stepped into a waiting car which took her to her parents home in Superior, where only a few months ago the hero was courting her.

The day was warm and the sun beat down brightly on the airport where flags flew at half staff. Sixteen members of the Superior post of the veterans of foreign wars formed a color guard as the casket was taken from the plane to an ambulance.

Members of the family stood by silently. There were no tears.

#### Badgley Expounds Atom Bomb Theory For Rotary Club

Development of the atomic theory and the disintegration or annihilation of the atom was discussed by Prof. Ralph Badgley of Eastern Oregon college today noon during the regular meeting of La Grande Rotarians.

Badgley traced the increasing knowledge of mankind from the conceptions of the earliest Greeks who believed matter could be created if its smallest unit could be found.

It was during experiment with this theory that physicists found energy could be released from the atom, with one gram of matter creating 25,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy. The atom bomb undoubtedly resulted from development of this discovery, he said.

Guests were Lt. Howard Graham, USN, and First Lt. Richard Halley, former high school teacher.

Dr. Logan Pruitt, minister of the First Methodist church was introduced as a new member.

The annual picnic, in charge of W. C. Perkins, chairman of the committee, was set for Aug. 29.

Dr. Roben Maaske announced he and Rev. Clarence Kopp, secretary of the organization will attend a Rotary meeting in Eugene, Aug. 20 and 21.

Chairman of the day was H. E. Dixon and Dr. Maaske presided.

#### Two More Deaths In Forest Fire, Includes Soldier

PORTLAND, Aug. 8 (UP)—Two more deaths—for a total of five—were chalked up against western Oregon's month-old forest fires today.

At Forest Grove, a soldier member of a crew fighting to save the city's watershed from encroaching flames was killed when a bulldozer he was driving plunged over a steep embankment Tuesday afternoon. He attempted to leap clear when a rockslide began to tilt the heavy machine, but the bulldozer tumbled over the road edge after him, killing him outright.

**One Hurt**  
In Umpqua national forest in southwest Oregon, one of 10 paratroopers jumping to control a lightning-caused fire was killed Tuesday and another was injured. This was the only casualty since smoke-jumpers were first used in 1938.

Earlier in the battle against the Tillamook fire on the Wilson river, a fire fighter was killed by a falling snag and two soldiers were killed in a traffic accident while being rushed to the fire front.

Forest officials are optimistic today over the possibility of saving the Forest Grove and Hillsboro watersheds — seriously threatened for the last few days.

The largest force of men and equipment has been assigned to the district around the Stimson Lumber company in the Seine creek area where the fire is four miles from the camp and endangering the Hillsboro water supply.

Fighters have been unable to move equipment into the inaccessible Trask river watershed to combat flames heading toward the Siuslaw national forest.

### Hope Declaration to "Speed End of Fight"

LONDON, Aug. 8 (UP)—Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov announced in Moscow tonight Russia has declared war against Japan, effective tomorrow, in order to speed the end of the conflict in the far east.

Molotov, in the war declaration statement broadcast by the Moscow radio, revealed Japan had asked Russia to mediate for peace with the United States and Britain.

Russia considered the Japanese rejection of the surrender-or-die ultimatum announced at Potsdam on July 26 nullified Japan's mediation proposal, Molotov said.

Molotov called in Naotake Sato, Japanese ambassador to Moscow, and informed him of Russia's decision.

Simultaneously the Soviet envoy in Tokyo was transmitting to the Japanese government the same statement.

**Satisfied**  
Later Molotov received the ambassadors from the United States, Great Britain and China and told them of the Soviet Union's momentous decision. They expressed satisfaction with the declaration, the Moscow radio said.

Molotov said the allies approached the Soviet government with a proposal to enter the war in order to shorten it, reduce the extent of casualties, and contribute to speedy peace.

**Accepts**  
"True to its obligation as an ally, the Soviet government accepted the proposal of the allies and has joined in the declaration of the allied powers of July 26," Molotov said.

He added Russia regarded her own entry as a means of hastening peace, sparing the allied peoples of further sacrifices, and enabling the Japanese people to evade the dangers of destruction Germany suffered.

**Vast Force**  
Russia presumably now will throw against Japan the vast military organization it has built up opposite Manchuria and Korea. This organization has been reinforced since Russia whipped Nazi Germany in the eastern front.

Her armies on the Manchurian border are known to be large and are believed to be a match for the enemy's sizeable and well-equipped forces there.

Thus the United States will be able to concentrate its powers on the Japanese homeland without worrying about liquidating enemy forces on the upper Asiatic mainland.

**Bear Brunt**  
It has been speculated the United States would bear the brunt of the air war against Japan, and possibly the invasion, while Russia neutralizes and presses forward on the enemy's flank.

The Soviet air force is not believed to be geared for long-range bombing assaults upon the Japanese home islands, but it may be expected to attack installations in Manchuria and perhaps Korea.

The report did not specify what occupational groups will be in line for induction. But it said the 18 to 30 year deferred group includes 65,000 members of the merchant marine, as well as "larger numbers of men working in coal mines, railroads, ship repair yards and other essential war activities."

**Farmers**  
"With the exception of special deferments for coal mines, railroads, and ship repair yards, the selective service system has no alternative but to select for induction the least essential of the limited number of men now remaining occupationally deferred," said the report.

It listed in this group 449,457 who have been deferred to industry and 483,872 who have been deferred to agriculture, most of whom have not had induction examinations. The 18 to 30 group also includes 1,000,000 men who have been rejected after taking examinations.

**No Radioactivity Left in Jap City**  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (UP)—Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer, director of the \$2,000,000,000 research project which produced the atomic bomb, said today there was no reason to believe the bomb explosion over Hiroshima left any "appreciable radioactivity on the ground."

Dr. Oppenheimer's statement was issued by the war department in denial of a newspaper story under the signature of Dr. Harold Jacobson, physicist, which said the atomic bomb would leave killing radioactivity in its wake for 70 years.

The war department said flatly there was "no basis for Dr. Jacobson's speculations with respect to radioactivity" in the opinion of qualified experts.

**Jaycees to Sponsor Paper Drive Show**  
La Grande junior chamber of commerce will sponsor a paper drive matinee for school children Wednesday, Aug. 15. J. Donald Meyers, owner of the local theaters, has contributed the use of the Granada theater for the afternoon. The picture will be Walt Disney's "Three Caballeros," and will start at 1:30 p. m. Admission will be one large bundle of paper, well tied.

#### Bulletin

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (UP)—Dr. Harold Jacobson, who helped in atomic research at Columbia university, collapsed in his office today when military counter-espionage agents told him he could be imprisoned for a signed newspaper article on the after-effects of atomic bombing.

**Weather**  
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.  
Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum \_\_\_\_\_ 78  
Minimum \_\_\_\_\_ 55  
Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday with widely scattered evening showers.