

Weather

Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m. Temperature: Maximum 59 Minimum 36 Forecast: Cloudy tonight and Tuesday; slightly warmer except on coast.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON Union and Wallowa Counties

Job Hunters Can Leave State, Still Get Benefits From State Fund (Page 3)

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LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 27, 1945

FIVE CENTS

President Wants Draft Continued Army Bomber Hunted in Blue Mountains

Ground, Plane Search Parties Comb Big Area

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Aug. 27 (UP)—The Walla Walla army air base reported today a B-24 Liberator bomber carrying 15 crew members and passengers was missing about 80 miles southwest of the base.

Two other planes from the same group training flight, returning from Sioux Falls, S. D., were damaged, one in flight and the other in landing at Butte, Mont. No one was injured in the latter two planes.

The plane disappeared Saturday night and pilots of accompanying craft believed it went down in the rugged Blue Mountain of northeastern Oregon.

Aerial and ground parties were conducting a widespread search today.

Civil air patrol here at La Grande had not yet been asked to join in the search for the missing bomber, Capt. William Pearce said this afternoon. The patrol is standing by however.

La Grande residents returning this morning from trips into the Wallowa lake country and farther north said the searching was centered in the Troy country. Thus far no word whatever of the bomber has been heard.

Mary Bohnenkamp Takes High Post At Camp Roberts

Miss Mary Gene Bohnenkamp, serving with the American Red Cross, has been assigned to Camp Roberts, Calif., where she will be a member of the staff as a recreation director.

She has completed a several weeks special training course in Washington, D. C., and her new assignment is part of a medically approved program which includes supervision of parties, entertainment, distribution of recreational facilities and games and the showing of the latest moving pictures.

Miss Bohnenkamp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Bohnenkamp of La Grande attended Eastern Oregon college and the University of Oregon, where she received her B. S. degree in music. At the local college she was a member of Sigma Alpha Chi, scholastic honorary, and Phi Beta Sigma, educational. At the University she was a member of Phi Beta Phi sorority in Nu Phi Epsilon, national music.

Prior to her service with the Red Cross, Miss Bohnenkamp was supervisor of music at Irvington school in Portland. Her hobbies are mainly in the field of athletics, including skiing, swimming and sailing.

A brother, Ensign James Bohnenkamp, is in the supply department of the navy in the Pacific. A sister, Lillian Bohnenkamp is a senior in the cadet nurses' corps at the University of Oregon medical school, Portland.

21 Traffic Deaths In July in State, Reports Farrell

The traffic fatality toll in Oregon for the month of July was one less than for the same month last year, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell disclosed today. There were 21 persons killed in July of this year, compared to 22 for the same month of 1944 and 23 for July of 1943.

Of the 21 traffic deaths in the state last month, only two occurred in urban areas, the rest occurring in rural areas. The two urban deaths were in Portland.

Traffic fatalities for the first seven months of 1945 totaled 153 compared to 138 fatalities during the first seven months of 1944, or an increase of 12 percent. Most of this increase is due to increases in the number of pedestrian fatalities in urban areas and non-collision crashes in rural areas, Farrell said. Sixty-five percent of the traffic deaths to date have been the result of pedestrian or non-collision accidents.



LEADS TOKYO FLIGHT—Col. John H. Lackey, Jr., Norfolk, Va., who will pilot first American plane to alight at Atsugi airstrip near Tokyo. Lackey, who led flight of planes that dropped paratroopers on Corregidor, will be riding the No. 1 position on a sky train that will include cargo planes protected by 5th and 7th air forces and by navy and marine corps.

Reporter Flies Over Tokyo; Sees Prisoners Dance

By EARNST HOBERECHT IN A HELLDIVER OVER TOKYO, Aug. 27 (UP)—American prisoners of war, frenzied with happiness, jigged a dance in their Japanese internment enclosure today as U. S. navy planes skimmed low overhead.

I flew with Ensign Merrill Skinner, Rte. 4, Buhl, Ida., among the wrecked buildings of devastated Tokyo. For six hours we dived and banked at tree-top level over the sprawling metropolitan area where blazing flak once spewed skyward.

The biggest thrill of our sight-seeing tour was a view of American prisoners as they received parachuted bundles of food and medicine from other planes of Vice Admiral John S. McCain's task force 58.

We found Japanese coastal waters dotted with small fishing craft as we streaked through Honshu skies in advance of Adm. William F. Halsey's great victory armada.

Wrecked Japanese ships littered Tokyo bay. My pilot had a hand in sinking some of them. Over Yokosuka naval base I saw many gun positions which had made this area the dreaded "flak alley" for pilots approaching Tokyo.

Tokyo seemed desolate and devastated. Buildings still standing were burned out.

De Gaulle Becomes Honorary Citizen

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (UP)—Gen. Charles De Gaulle, president of the provisional French government, will be made an honorary citizen of New York today at formal welcoming ceremonies at city hall.

The official welcome for De Gaulle, who arrived late yesterday after paying tribute to the late President Roosevelt at Hyde Park, will follow a visit to Idlewild airport. On his way back from the huge airfield, still under construction, De Gaulle will drive through Brooklyn to the battery.

97th Doesn't Care About Seeing Japan

Cards Thrown From Train Protest New Job

Members of the 97th infantry division, veterans of the war in the European theater of operations, yesterday were actively campaigning against, and voicing their resentment at being sent to Japan as an army of occupation, by throwing hand-printed cards from the train windows.

Some of the messages picked up at the local depot, were written on playing cards and some on postal cards. Typical of the wording was, "Just back from Germany. Do you think this is fair to us who are combat vets to police Japan and once again leave our loved ones?" and "Why should the draft stop now?" One stated "What about these so-called 2 B's and 4F's? Give them a chance to see the world! We saw enough!"

Japan Ready to Accept Fate of Vanquished, Says Naval Officer with U. S. Occupation

WITH U. S. OCCUPATION FORCES IN SAGAMI BAY, Aug. 27 (UP)—Japan, humiliated and food and fuel shortages, is now ready to accept the fate of the vanquished, a Japanese naval officer said today as American navy and marine forces steamed through the mine fields of Sagami bay in the direction of Tokyo.

The Japanese officer, Lt. Cmdr. Kusuado, skipper of a destroyer-escort anchored in Yokosuka naval base, came aboard this transport—the U. S. S. Grimes—at 1:30 p. m. He was ready to lead the U. S. naval flotilla to a safe anchorage.

Stand By Kusuado transferred from the destroyer U. S. S. Stockham off Oshima. U. S. sailors and marines stood on the deck and watched as Kusuado came aboard on a breeches buoy.

He grinned once, then whipped out secret maps of the Sagami channel and went into conference with Cmdr. Roland M. Smoot, Coronado, Calif.

Kusuado said everything was in readiness to receive American occupation troops at Yokosuka. "The Japanese people have 'no particular feeling' about occupation of their country, and have 'just accepted it," Kusuado said.

Both Leave Two-thirds of the personnel of Yokosuka base, including both high commanders, already have departed for Tokyo while others are standing by—awaiting the Americans.

Kusuado said the food situation in Japan is "very acute," and the remaining Japanese war vessels virtually were forced to remain at anchor because of a fuel shortage.

Kusuado wore a cheap burlap-type uniform. He sweated profusely, and clutched a pack of American cigarettes, which he seemed happy to have.

Death Toll Two In Fireman Plant

PORTLAND, Aug. 27 (UP)—Death toll in the Iron Fireman plant explosion and fire of last Thursday is set at two. Mrs. June D. Klages, 27, succumbed early Sunday to serious injuries at Portland General hospital.

Hospital attendants said she had suffered concussion, jaw fracture and internal injuries when a wall of the building fell on her. Michael J. Keck, 51, was crushed to death by the same wall.

Eleven other injured employees are improving.

Police Search For Body of Iowa Youth

SALEM, Aug. 27 (UP)—State police today resumed their search for the body of William Stevens, 17-year-old Iowa youth, who disappeared while swimming in the Willamette river near the Wheatland ferry landing yesterday.

Police dragged the river for five hours yesterday. Two unidentified young men told investigating officers the three were swimming to a log raft when Stevens was caught in swift water and was sucked under.

The youth had been working on the ranch of Charles Knapp near Salem.

Legion to Discuss Help for Veterans

PORTLAND, Aug. 27 (UP)—The American Legion of Oregon convention will tackle the problem of rehabilitation and employment of world war II veterans when it convenes in Portland Sept. 5 to 8, department adjutant Fritz Nissen said today. Approximately 500 delegates are expected.



JOURNEY'S END—Map above shows the long road back traversed by General MacArthur from March, 1942, when he left Corregidor, declaring, "I will return," to his triumphal entry into Tokyo as supreme commander of the allied occupation forces.

Puny Destroyer Greets 100 Miles of U. S. Navy in Bay

By FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW ABOARD BATTLESHIP IOWA IN SAGAMI BAY, Aug. 27 (UP)—Every gun on the Iowa was pointed at a dingy little Japanese destroyer.

It was the Hat Uzakura, which brought 21 Japanese emissaries to a conference aboard Admiral William F. Halsey's flagship. Men stood at battle stations throughout the conference.

We approached the shores of Japan, 400 ships strong, strung out for 100 miles. This show of sea power was met by one little destroyer.

Described We had been watching the coastline for an hour. Every man aboard was alert. The U. S. destroyer Nicholas broke from formation and approached the enemy ship. We saw Halsey's flagship, the Missouri, signal to the Nicholas and ask if the Japanese had depressed their guns as ordered.

The Nicholas said yes. We crowded the starboard rail to watch. The Nicholas launched a whaleboat flying the American flag. The loudspeaker told the men in the gun turrets what was happening.

Transfer The fleet sailed along at reduced speed. It took two trips by the whaleboat to complete the transfer of the envoys. Then with the 21 emissaries, two commissioned Japanese officers, 13

Chief Lund Asks Drivers to Be Careful Over Labor Day

Chief of Police C. C. Lund today warned motorists planning Labor day trips to be on the alert for congested conditions and to drive safely to avoid marring the first post-war Labor day holiday with traffic fatalities.

"Unquestionably, highways of this state will carry heavier volumes of traffic than in recent war years," Chief Lund declared. "Further, we may expect the average traffic pace to be higher, due to the relaxation of the 35-mile wartime speed ceiling. Unless every driver is alert, these conditions may well result in serious accidents during the holiday period."

Greater Danger

The chief emphasized the fact the average age of cars today is twice what it was in pre-war years and that tires, particularly, may not be capable of withstanding sustained driving at high speeds. Consequently, he said, the accident hazard attendant to thoughtless driving is proportionately greater.

"Figures released from the office of Robert S. Farrell, secretary of state, show traffic volume increase three or four times that of normal days during the Labor day period," Chief Lund pointed out. "Drivers must take this heavier volume into consideration in their driving if they are to avoid accidents."

Precautions The chief suggested these safety precautions for Labor day driving:

- 1. Hold speed to a pace reasonable in light of traffic conditions.

- 2. Avoid passing on curves or at hill crests.

- 3. Avoid jockeying in and out of a line of traffic.

- 4. Never drive when fatigued or sleepy—let someone else take the wheel or stop and take a nap.

- 5. Observe traffic regulations at all times.

Rulon Smith Gets Legion of Merit In POW Activity

Lt. Col. Rulon E. Smith, formerly assistant manager of the La Grande branch of the United States national bank, has been awarded the legion of merit and the bronze star for exceptionally meritorious achievement in prisoner of war activities, it was announced from U. S. army headquarters in Manila.

The citation stated Colonel Smith "displayed initiative, organizational ability and leadership of a high order in organizing and operating the USAFFE prisoner of war information bureau."

The citation added he "coordinated with tact and effectiveness the bureau's activities in relation with the Australian prisoner of war and internee bureau for the detention of United States prisoners of war at a time when American facilities were not available."

He was assigned executive officer of the provost marshal section of USAFFE after serving in the Buna and Papuan campaign as assistant intelligence officer of the forty-first infantry division.

Colonel Smith served as an enlisted man in World War I and was commissioned in the 186th infantry, Oregon national guard, in 1934, and was called to active duty in September, 1940.

Colonel Smith was formerly assistant manager of the U. S. National bank here.

Admiral Returns To Japan; Hasn't Yet Received Thanks

WITH ADM. HALSEY'S THIRD FLEET IN SAGAMI BAY, Aug. 27 (UP)—The occupation of Yokosuka naval base will mark the second eventful visit to Japan for Rear Adm. Oscar Charles Badger, commander of task force 31 of the third fleet.

The 55-year-old officer first went to Japan in 1923 when his ship, the armored cruiser Huron, entered Yokohama after the earthquake. For a fortnight, Badger, then a lieutenant commander, labored amidst terrible devastation to save the Japanese. When his job was done, Badger did not get so much as a thank you.

Although the industry has suffered during the war years for lack of help and paper rationing, only 18 newspapers had suspended publication or been consolidated. All of these, Webb said, except one, were weeklies.

As for the future, Webb reported most newspapers were planning new buildings, remodeling, new mechanical equipment, photographic improvements and air deliveries.

More Housing Work Uncertain

Only housing projects which are 95 percent completed will be fully completed from now on, Raymond Gray, president of the chamber of commerce here, was informed today by G. M. Conger, representative of the housing authority at Seattle, upon Gray's request for information on the status of the housing project here.

Even those which are nearly finished will not be completed unless the need for them is definite right now.

Gray said the chamber board will meet next week to discuss what further steps are to be taken in the matter. The decision which apparently ends the construction here and in similar projects over this area comes from George W. Copeland, regional supervisor in Seattle. There will be still plenty of time to take action before removal of the buildings here is started, Conger assured Gray.

He said most recent studies indicated 300,000 will be the maximum number of volunteers to be expected by next July and that inductions, if continued at the present reduced rate, for the same period would produce approximately 500,000 men.

This figure, the president said, was certain to be insufficient to meet over-all requirements. Estimates from Gens. Eisenhower and MacArthur alone totaled 1,200,000 men, exclusive of the numbers required for supporting troops.

The president said it would be "an unforgivable discrimination" to keep war veterans separated from their homes and families in favor of those who have had no military service.

HOUSTON, Aug. 27 (UP)—U. S. weather bureau reported at 12:30 p. m. today the tropical hurricane lashing the Texas gulf coast area was centered about 20 miles south of Palacios, and moving slowly northeastward.

The storm, which already had cost at least six lives and uncounted thousands of dollars of property damage, between Port Isabel and Corpus Christi, was attended by winds upwards of 100 miles an hour over an area 30 miles wide near the center. Reports of wind velocity of more than 100 miles an hour were received from Corpus Christi and Palacios.

Tides 10 feet above normal were causing great property damage all along the central coastal area. All interests north of Galveston to Lake Charles, La., were warned.

Identified dead included Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reeves of San Antonio and their two children, John Michael, 3, and Charles, jr., 6, who were killed in a head-on collision near Corpus Christi yesterday. Police said the accident was caused by bad visibility.

Glenn Smith of Arkansas and Joe Green of Port Isabel drowned Saturday when their fishing boat capsized near the Port Isabel ship channel.

Rainfall in La Grande over the weekend has been recorded at 21, with 12 falling Sunday, and .05 Saturday.

The temperature has taken a sharp downward turn, going from 96 degrees maximum for Friday to 80 degrees maximum for Saturday. Maximum temperature Sunday was 59 degrees, with a minimum 36.

The rain helped foresters and others to keep the fire on Robby's hill and the grass and sage brush fire in Hog valley under control and to speed the "mopping up" process. Repairs to the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company line from Baker, made necessary by the Hog valley fire, were practically completed today.

Government Asks Citizens Still To Observe Orders

WASHINGTON, August 27 (UP)—A message from the office of war information: The government needs and asks its citizens in this second week of peace to:

- 1. Use the nearest of 4,000 U. S. employment service offices to locate a job or a worker for a job. By using these clearing houses you will avoid turnover, duplication and lost time.

- 2. See the counselor in your military separation center or assembly area about your veterans' rights to medical or dental training. Twelve thousand students for medical and dental schools are needed.

- 3. Eat and store potatoes to avoid spoilage of this nourishing, cheap and plentiful food.

- 4. Postpone your pleasure travel a few months longer.

- 5. Continue to save tin.



CAMERA DEBUT—Denise Hedwig Loder, daughter of Hedy Lamar and Hohn Loder, makes her camera debut with her famous mother, in bid to compete with Hedy as Hollywood's most photogenic subject.

To Limit Terms To Two Years

WASHINGTON, August 27 (UP)—President Truman urged congress today to continue selective service inductions of men 18 through 25, but with a two-year limit on their period of service.

Truman said "The situation in the Pacific continues to have many elements of danger" and emphasized the danger in "a too early unqualified formal termination" of the war emergency.

"Tragic conditions would result if we were to allow the period of military service to expire by operation of law while a substantial portion of our forces has not yet been returned from overseas," he said. "I am confident that congress will take no action which would place the armed forces in such a position."

On the day he announced Japan's agreement to surrender, Truman said 50,000 men a month will be drafted for the army indefinitely, primarily as replacements.

The president suggested congress take additional steps to furnish inducements which will stimulate voluntary enlistments. The president said he wished it were possible for him to recommend immediate cessation of the draft.

In pointing out world conditions will require during the transition period the maintenance of "a real measure of our military strength," the president declared our occupation forces in Europe, as well as the Pacific, must be held "at safe levels."

Need 300,000 He said most recent studies indicated 300,000 will be the maximum number of volunteers to be expected by next July and that inductions, if continued at the present reduced rate, for the same period would produce approximately 500,000 men.

This figure, the president said, was certain to be insufficient to meet over-all requirements. Estimates from Gens. Eisenhower and MacArthur alone totaled 1,200,000 men, exclusive of the numbers required for supporting troops.

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Rainfall Here On Weekend Helps To Hold Down Fires

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Farmer Settles Wheat Damage for \$20

Flier Glad to Find Field to Land Upon

An altercation, arising because the city's electric power was temporarily shut off Friday evening, was settled, if not to the satisfaction of all concerned, at least settled, with the payment of \$20 to an irate farmer by an incensed airplane pilot.

Because he couldn't see the field while the lights were out (due to the power stoppage), a Mr. Potter, flying from Bremerton to Joplin, Mo., spotted a wheat field behind the radio station, and proceeded to make an emergency landing.

The disturbed farmer received payment for damages to his grain crop, the pilot had his landing gear and a few minor cuts to the fabric of the craft repaired, loaded his dog in the plane and continued on his way.