

Weather
Data for 24 hours to 7 a. m.
Temperature: 90
Maximum 90
Minimum 48
Precipitation Trace.
Forecast: Partly cloudy through Friday.

La Grande Evening Observer

HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON
Union and Willamette Counties

New Serial Story
By Doris Hume
Starting Today

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30, 1945 FIVE CENTS

Kaiser Yard Fire Destroys Six Ships



HERO OF BATAVN ARRIVES AT CHUNGKING—OWI radio photo from Chungking shows Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, center, and Brig. Gen. L. C. Beebe, left, being greeted at a Chungking airport after liberation from Japanese hands.

Boyington Survives Torture and Beatings of Japanese Prison

By FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW
A BOARD MERCY SHIP REEVES OFF OMORI PRISON CAMP, TOKYO BAY, Aug. 30 (UP) — Surviving 20 months of secret imprisonment and torture with a baseball bat, Maj. Gregory Boyington, 32-year-old ace from Okanogan, Wash., was rescued by an expedition commanded by Commodore Roger Simpson, he told me today.
Boyington was reported dead when he was shot down over Rabaul in 1944. He had 28 Japanese planes and a congressional medal of honor to his credit.
His mother, Mrs. Grace Hallenbeck, of Okanogan, never gave up hope. She frequently expressed to newspapermen her belief her son would return.
Many Wounds
Boyington said he was shot down Jan. 3, 1944. He had 22 mm. wounds on his head, neck, arms and ear and his ankle was broken. The main gas tank of his Corsair blew up.
"Finally I located the rubber boat from my plane and inflated it," he went on. "After a few hours, a Japanese submarine surfaced nearby and took me aboard off Cape St. George and transported me to Rabaul."
"At Rabaul, I was blindfolded and handcuffed and my medical equipment was taken away. I was questioned the whole night. I had no medical treatment for 10 days during which time my festering wounds smelled so foul I wondered how the Jap questioners could stand the stench.
"On the 11th day, another intern was permitted to apply hot water bandages.
In March, 1944, I was transported to a secret navy camp for questioning. It was in the country village of Ofuna, Japan. Here I was given the baseball bat treatment.
Slugged 300 Times
"I was slugged in the jaw approximately 300 times. Similar beatings killed other prisoners. A pharmacist's mate observed First Lt. Bill Harris, the son of Maj. Gen. Phil Harris, reading about Russia's success in Europe.
"The Jap called all prisoners into formation, then beat Harris a half-hour with a baseball bat. He knocked him down 20 times, until Harris finally became unconscious. The Jap kicked him in the face, ribs and stomach with heavy shoes."
Boyington said Harris recovered.
On April 5, 1945, Boyington was transferred to Omori. The prisoners were required to bow politely from the waist to guards when they wished to use the toilet and to thank the guard for his courtesy.
Since most of the prisoners were suffering from dysentery, many could not conform to this rigamarole, Boyington said. They were then beaten.
The menu consisted of a kilo of maize and rice mixed together. An occasional treat was a fish head or seaweed. Boyington's normal weight of 175 pounds fell off to 110 until he got a job as a kitchen assistant. The marine see now weighs 160 pounds.

Union Democrats Endorse Hess For District Attorney

Endorsement of Henry L. Hess as U. S. district attorney for Oregon was unanimously voted at a special meeting of the county democratic central committee in the Sacajawea hotel.
Members from almost every precinct in the county were present for the meeting, called by Henry Akin, state chairman of the democratic party. The committee was reorganized, with officers being elected to fill the vacancy left by the death of Chairman Lyle B. Kiddie this spring. New officers are: W. E. Wilkins, chairman; Martin Fitzgerald, vice-chairman; Mrs. Nora Shorb, secretary.
Telegram
After the committee reorganization, the chairman was instructed to send a telegram to Thomas C. Clark, attorney general, advising him of the endorsement.
Telegram to Richard R. Nacy, vice-chairman of the democratic committee, recommended Hess for the post earlier this month, and was sent by Lew Wallace, national committeeman.
Run For Governor
Hess ran for governor in 1938, defeating Governor Martin in the primaries and losing to Charles Sprague in the fall. He had previously served five sessions in the state senate for Union and Willamette counties. Since 1921 he has been practicing law here, and was in partnership with R. J. Green until the latter was elected circuit judge in 1938.
A veteran of the World War, he saw action in France, and had been practicing law at North Powder before the war. Born at Rexburn, Ind., he moved to Oregon when a youth and attended high school at Union. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon law school.

Boy Scouts Will Urge Hole Digging

Boy Scout troops will be in charge of encouraging home owners from Second to Birch streets to dig holes for the new street markers, it was announced today.

Boy Scout Board Of Review Put Off

The Boy Scout board of review, which usually meets the first Monday of every month, has been postponed from Sept. 3 to Tuesday, Sept. 4, because of Labor day.

MacArthur Takes Over in Japan

Truman Says 'All' to Blame for Disaster

WASHINGTON, August 30 (UP) — President Truman said today he thinks the army and navy Pearl Harbor reports showed the disaster resulted fundamentally from "the policy which the country itself pursued" in 1941 — a policy of non-preparedness.
The president expressed his views at a press conference while numerous congressmen were demanding further investigations and public courts martial of top officers who drew part of the blame.
Reads Reports
The president also sided again with Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson in defense of former secretary of state Cordell Hull.
The president said he had read the reports carefully and come to this conclusion:
"The whole thing was the result of the policy which the country itself pursued. The country was not ready for preparedness."
He went on to say every time the late President Roosevelt tried to get a preparedness program through congress, it was "stifled." And every time Roosevelt in statements tried to arouse the country to the need of preparedness, he was "vilified," Truman said.
No Trials
And thus, the president added, his primary thought was the country as a whole, more than any individual was to blame.
He said he had no intention of ordering courts martial for any of the officers involved, but he had no objection to such courts martial being held.
"The army and navy have stated they have no intention of ordering any trials."
Can Speak
A reporter observed Maj. Gen. Walter H. Short and Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, who up-See TRUMAN . . . Page 7

School Bus Will Begin Operations Next Tuesday

La Grande school bus service for the first few days of school this year and the schedule the bus will follow have been announced by Fred Patton, superintendent of schools. Changes in the service will be made as warranted.
The bus will go from La Grande on the Mt. Glen road, to the Iowa school house. It will then go north to the Butte, west to the Jim Woodell place, north to the Frank Greiner place, west to the L. Webster place, turning south there to the Herbert Speckhart place.
Going east from there the bus will go to the Sand Ridge road, then go south to the Conley warehouse and proceed south-west down the highway to the Booth lane, then west through Booth lane to the Mt. Glen road and then into La Grande.
Pupils living along the road will be picked up on the road on the described route, starting Sept. 4. Lunchrooms will not be in operation for some time. The bus will return earlier than usual on Tuesday, but lunches will still be necessary, Patton declared.
Time schedule:
Mt. Glen school house . . . 8:00
Hunter Lane . . . 8:03
Iowa school house . . . 8:05
Duncan McDonald Lane . . . 8:08
Butte . . . 8:10
Jim Woodell place . . . 8:14
Greiner place . . . 8:17
L. Webster . . . 8:18
Paul Knautz place . . . 8:21
Herbert Speckhart place . . . 8:23
Sand Ridge road corner . . . 8:25
Conley Warehouse . . . 8:29
Booth Lane . . . 8:31
Zurbrick place . . . 8:34
Moss Chapel school house . . . 8:36

Grant Bailey of Hermiston Dies; Had Lived Here

Grant Bailey, 77, of Hermiston died in a Hermiston hospital Monday, Aug. 27, following a short illness.
He was born July 5, 1868 in Indiana, was a former resident of La Grande, moving to Hermiston about 25 years ago, and was a member of Cherry Lodge No. 254, A. F. 3, A. M., Fargo, Okla.
Survivors include his wife, Ella, of Hermiston, one son, W. G. Bailey of La Grande, a daughter, Mrs. Byron Brown of Portland and other relatives.
Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday in the Christian church in Hermiston, and grave site services will be held at the Masonic cemetery in La Grande at 2 p. m. Saturday, Sept. 1, Rev. Eugene Chamberlain, pastor of First Christian church, will be in charge.

Mt. Emily 4-H Club Group Will Exhibit

Mt. Emily camp 4-H group, led by Mrs. Ruth Hagey, met at 2 p. m. today to make final arrangements for exhibiting projects at the county 4-H club fair Sept. 19-20. Miss Doris McWhorter, Union county home demonstration agent, was present to answer the girls' questions concerning the fair. Cove 4-H clubs are meeting at 7:30 p. m. today at the home of Mrs. Dena Towle, 4-H club leader, also to make arrangements for the fair.

60,000 Lumbermen Plan to Strike

SEATTLE, Aug. 30 (UP)—A strike of more than 60,000 Pacific northwest AFL lumber workers was forecast by union leaders today as the local office of the national labor relations board began sorting 30,000 ballots from the first of two scheduled strike votes.
Its office jammed with sacks of ballots received before the deadline last midnight, the NLRB said results of the balloting will not be known until Sept. 6. Union leaders, however, have warned they planned to strike regardless of the outcome.
Aronic priesthood of the Union stake of the Church of Latter Day Saints today left for Langdon lake for an overnight campaign. The outing is under the direction of O. C. Wyde. The Union stake includes Baker, Union, La Grande, Walla Walla and Pendleton.

Many Appeals for Housing Reach Chamber

With cancellation of the defense housing unit in Connersdale addition, many requests, even appeals, for any sort of living quarters have been streaming in at the office of the chamber of commerce.
Dozens of railroad men who expect to be living in this area for at least the next year because of emergency work, are unable to bring their families to town because of shortage of housing. Most of them had expected to move into the housing project when it was completed. Fred Patton, superintendent of schools, also reported several teachers will be arriving here within the next few days, with no place to which to bring their families.
The chamber has been listing houses and apartments and sleeping rooms which are available for renters and has been taking the names of those who wish quarters in an attempt to find adequate housing for essential and highly important workers.
This appeal from the chamber for those who have quarters, even though they may seem small perhaps, to list them with the chamber for clearance.

40,000 Men Land, Occupy Tokyo Plains

By RALPH TEATSORTH
GENERAL MACARTHUR HDQS, YOKOHAMA, Aug. 30 (UP) — Gen. Douglas MacArthur set up headquarters in Yokohama today as the first 40,000 troops of his occupation army raised the stars and stripes over Japan's largest naval base, two airfields and a big slice of Tokyo plain.
A half dozen or more Japanese towns were occupied by allied air and seaborne forces in ten hours.
MacArthur established his headquarters in Yokohama's new Grand hotel with other top American officers. From the top of the hotel MacArthur could see Emperor Hirohito's palace in the heart of Tokyo. Both Hirohito and the Japanese government now must take their orders from MacArthur.
Take Islands
South of Yokohama, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey of third fleet fame went ashore at the newly-occupied Yokosuka naval base, formerly Japan's No. 1 navy yard. It already had surrendered formally.
American and British marines and blue-jackets also raised the American flag over three fortified islands guarding the approaches to Yokosuka, Cape Futaba, seven miles across the entrance to Tokyo bay from Yokosuka.
The air and sea-borne landings on Japan were carried out under a canopy of 2,000 warplanes and the big guns of hundreds of warships. The troops landed with full combat equipment, but not a shot was fired.
On Guard
From Atsugi, MacArthur's party set out for Yokohama in a convoy of Japanese automobiles and trucks. Japanese troops with rifles and sidearms stood every 100 yards or so with their backs to the road.
Paratroops on the 11th airborne division, who will serve as MacArthur's bodyguards, piled into the Japanese trucks without comment. Japanese officers saluted promptly.
Yokohama itself is a burned-out shell from American air raids. There is no resemblance to the great port that once housed nearly 1,000,000 Japanese and handled a quarter of the Japanese Empire's trade.
Trains and trolley cars are running, but few automobiles are in the streets.
Up to 40,000 troops had landed by sea and air on the southern approaches of Tokyo by night-fall. Others waited aboard ships in Tokyo bay and at Okinawa airfields.

Veteran Seniority Supercedes Union, Judge Declares

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (UP)—Federal Judge Matthew T. Abrozuzo ruled today the selective service act supercedes collective bargaining agreements in determining job seniority rights of war veterans.
He made his decision in a test case brought by Abraham Fishgold, former serviceman, against the Sullivan Dry Dock and Repair corporation.
Answering arguments of the company's counsel, he declared "there is no ambiguity about the act that took the veteran into the army forces."
"This act now saves the veteran his pension, his insurance and his social security," Abrozuzo said.
"In my opinion, congress intended to give the veteran all the rights he left when he was called into service and the statute passed by congress supercedes collective bargaining contracts."

Worker Injured By Fall of Part Of His Scaffold

William D. Braze of Denver is in Grande Ronde hospital recovering from an accident at Mt. Emily mill yesterday.
Braze, with a contracting company out of Denver which is constructing a chimney at the local mill, was building a scaffold when the triangle at the top of the scaffold gave way, fell and struck him on the head. Braze was wearing a metal helmet at the time, but the force of the falling framework was great enough to dent the helmet and lacerate his scalp and the impact of the blow loosened his front teeth.
Barring the development of any complications the injured man's condition is not deemed serious and he should be able to leave the hospital within a few days, attendants said.

Yanks Take Over Great Jap Base In 80 Minutes

By FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW
YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Aug. 30 (UP) — Formal control of one of Japan's greatest naval bases passed into American hands today when Rear Adm. Michitaru Tozuka, a fat-faced little man with baggy eyes, handed a plain, white envelope to Rear Adm. Robert Carney, USN.
The transfer took place on the side of a dock in the shadow of Rear Adm. Oscar W. Badger's flagship, the San Diego — the first invading ship to tie up at this newest U. S. naval base.
The brief surrender formalities were completed an hour and 20 minutes after the San Diego tied up.
Tozuka received the surrender document from one of three Japanese aides who looked ready to burst into tears.
Badger, Carney and Marine Gen. William Clement entered a Packard and began a tour and inventory of the navy yard.
The Japanese offered the former headquarters of the station as U. S. naval headquarters, while buildings of the Japanese naval corps, artillery, engineering and navigation school and the naval garrison were offered for use by garrison troops.

Priesthood Leaves For Annual Outing

St. Joseph's parish priest, Rev. Father J. J. O'Connell, and his flock of 150 parishioners left for their annual outing today. The group is headed for the coast and will be back in La Grande on Monday.

Street Lines Painted

City streets in downtown La Grande today were receiving new stripes of yellow paint to designate more clearly the parking spaces in the congested parking areas. A small automatic machine with a heavy brush, and pushed very much like a perambulator was used to make the unswerving bright lines.

Point Values On Meat Cut For September

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (UP) — OPA today slashed September ration point values on meat, cheese, butter and margarine. No points will be needed for canned milk, the office of price administration announced.
From Sept. 2 to 29, inclusive, the red point reductions on all meats will average 28 percent. Points on cheeses will be cut in half. Butter will drop four points and margarine will be cut by two so that both will have the same ration value—12 points.
Much Less
Blue point rationing has stopped. Now points will be cut on the whole red point list except for lard, cooking oils and other shortening.
Beef steaks and roasts will be from two to three points less a pound. Hamburger values will be cut in half to two points a pound. Lamb and veal will drop one to three points. Pork steaks, chops and roasts will be down one and two points. All bacon will be reduced by two points, and spare-ribs will be cut three points.
Price administrator Chester Bowles said the reductions result from "marked improvement in the last few weeks" in supply and distribution.
Not in Sight
End of meat rationing is not yet in sight, Bowles declared, although other sources have predicted it would last only a couple of months more.
He said the agriculture department estimates civilians will get 338,000,000 pounds of meat a week during the September rationing period compared with 280,420,000 pounds in August, an increase of 20 1/2 percent. There will be more beef, veal, lamb, mutton and pork, he said.

British to Enter Hong Kong Harbor

CHUNGKING, Aug. 30 (UP)—British naval units will enter Hong Kong harbor today to take over the British crown colony from Japanese occupation forces, Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer announced.
Wedemeyer said the British units were detached from Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser's Pacific command to make the lightning run to resume control of one of Great Britain's most famous outposts.

Bormann Believed Still Uncaptured

LONDON, Aug. 30 (UP)—A Russian spokesman said today Martin Bormann, Adolf Hitler's deputy and second most powerful man in Nazi Germany, is believed still at large.
Maj. Gen. I. T. Nikitchenko disclosed the allies have dismissed reports of Bormann's death as unfounded.
Speculation over Bormann's whereabouts was touched off by his inclusion last night among the 24 German war criminals ordered to trial at Nuremberg.
At first it was thought his appearance on the mass indictment meant he already had been captured by the allies.
Nikitchenko said, however, Bormann is not in soviet hands nor, so far as he knew, in the custody of any of the allied powers. He pointed out, however, the charter establishing the war crimes tribunal permitted trials in absentia.
The soviet spokesman declined comment on why Bormann was included on the indictment list while Adolf Hitler was not. Hitler's body never has been found.

Betty Courtney Has Left WAVES

Mrs. Betty Courtney of La Grande has received a discharge from the WAVES and is here awaiting the arrival of her husband, Lt. Burl Courtney who is expected to arrive next week for a 15-day leave.
While in the WAVES Mrs. Courtney was a Link trainer instructor at Beeville, Texas. Lieutenant Courtney, returned in March from the south Pacific where he served with the 41st infantry and is in charge of a prisoner of war camp in New Mexico.

Sink 69 Ships

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (UP)—U. S. submarines operating in far eastern waters in the last three months of the war sank 69 enemy vessels, the navy announced today.

Losses to Beat 25 Millions

PORTLAND, Aug. 30 (UP)—Fire in the outfitting docks of the Kaiser Oregon shipyard in Portland today burned six newly-completed ships, with damage estimated in excess of \$25,000,000.
A cabin painter drowned when he dived from a flaming ship into the mooring basin. An asbestos operator is unaccounted for. Hundreds of workers dived into the mooring basin to escape the flames and scores suffered minor injuries.
The fire was still burning three hours after the first outbreak. The damage included loss of millions of dollars of plant equipment, including the machine shop, sheet metal shop, marine machinists shop, marine store shop, garage and all equipment of the Buckler-Chapman company, which outfit for Kaiser.
Great Heat
Flames raced from one ship to another as they were tied at the dock of the Willamette river shipyard, one of the largest in the world. The Victory ships and troop transports had been launched and needed only final outfitting.
Between 2,500 and 3,000 workers were in the immediate area. Firemen were driven from the outfitting dock by the terrific heat of the flames, fed by fresh paint and other inflammables.
The fire is believed to have started when sparks from a welder's outfit ignited oil being piped into a generator on the Bexar Victory.
Dock Caught
The flames jumped to the USS Glynn, a troopship moored near it, and it was only seconds before the Glynn was afire.
Then the outfitting dock itself caught fire and the flames swept under the main deck, weakening the piling underneath. Four 15-ton Whirley cranes wavered and yard officials were fearful they might topple over.
Firemen prevented the fire from spreading from the outfitting dock. Efforts were concentrated on keeping the fire from the shipways.
Lights Out
North Portland was covered with black smoke and the flames were visible over a wide area. Telephone and lighting equipment all went out when the fire started.
The yard — one of the biggest in the world — is operated by Henry F. Kaiser's Oregon Shipbuilding corporation for the U. S. maritime commission. End of the war brought cancellation of most outstanding contracts and the yard was tapering off its activities. It established all-time records for rapid construction ships.