

Weather

Forecast: Sunday, mostly cloudy with rain showers in valley; snow in mountains. Temp. Highest yesterday 46. Lowest this morning 41. Precipitation .07

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United Press—Full Leased Wire



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MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1945

NO. 302.

B-29 RAIDS BURN 28 TO 36 M. IN 4 MAIN JAP CITIES

Kobe, Chief Port, Aflame—
Iwo Jima Battle Won,
Costly To Marines

By United Press
Fleets of U. S. B-29s burned out from 28 to 36 square miles of Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe in four obliteration assaults against Japan's war industries in the past week, it was announced Saturday.
Smoke still obscured Kobe

ATTACK RENEWED

Washington, March 17—(U.P.)—A fleet of "enemy carrier-borne planes" are attacking southern Kyushu and southern Shikoku, in the Japanese home islands, and an "enemy task force" has been sighted in waters south of Kyushu, enemy broadcasts said tonight.

The broadcast, heard by the FCC, said the attack began at 5 a. m. Sunday (Japanese time). The dispatch was recorded at 9:50 p. m. EWT which would be 10:50 Sunday Japanese time, indicating that the attack still was continuing after more than five hours.

The attack, not confirmed by any allied source.

after a record load of 2,500 tons of fire bombs cascaded into the heart of Japan's chief port. From nine to 12 miles of Kobe were aflame, observers said, but "inconclusive" official reports claimed only two square miles destroyed until complete photographs can be obtained.

In Osaka 7.86 square miles were left in ruins Wednesday. Seventeen square miles in Tokyo and two miles in Nagoya were blackened, burned-out testimony to the power of the B-29 bomber force. The official total of 28.88 square miles destroyed in the four cities was expected to be revised upwards when details of the Kobe strike are known.

The battle against Japan continued on the ground. American troops in the Philippines drove ahead on three Luzon fronts, on the Zamboanga peninsula of Mindanao and landed forces on Basilan—24th of the islands to be invaded.

Troops on Luzon pushed south and north of Manila to wipe out the last Japanese. A general advance was made on Zamboanga. The two-months one-week Luzon campaign has cost the enemy approximately 145,000 men, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said. A total of 137,000 Japanese losses on other islands make a total of 282,000 enemy casualties in the past five months.

The liberation of Luzon has taken 3,813 American lives, with 14,570 wounded and 198 missing—a total of 18,579.

In the central Pacific, at the nearest American base to Japan, the battle of Iwo was over. Mopping up operations were continuing as casualty figures showed that approximately one of every three Americans who set foot on Iwo was killed or wounded in the most costly battle in marine corps history.

Two of Iwo's airfields were in operation now and Pacific fleet surface units moved north of Japan to bombard Matsuwa island in the Kuriles, 940 miles above Tokyo. But the price for the growing base at Iwo was 19,938 men—killed, wounded or missing. Japanese dead totaled over 21,000 in the bloody 26-day campaign.

British and Indian troops in Mandalay inside the town and other forces cut the main Rangoon-Mandalay highway. India-based Superforts joined the Burma offensive with their fourth raid on Rangoon, large Jap supply base.

WARSHIPS BLAST MATSUWA ISLAND

Guam, Sunday, March 18—(U.P.)—It was announced today, U. S. warships bombarded Matsuwa island in the Kuriles, 480 miles north of Japan.

There were no details of the Pacific fleet's surface strike against Matsuwa. Explosions and fires on the island, attacked several times previously by air and fleet units, were reported. Japanese shore batteries answered the warships but no damage was caused to the American vessels, it was announced.

Liberated Prisoners



(Acme Telephoto)
Marine T/Sgt. Paul J. Wells of Venice, Calif., and "Soochow," canine mascot of the old Fourth Marine Regiment, arrive in San Francisco after almost three years spent as prisoners of the Japanese in the Philippines. Wells was taken prisoner near Manila. "Soochow" on Corraidoir.

MEAT SUPPLY OF LAND, LEND-LEASE, SLASHED BY WFA

Washington, March 17—(U.P.)—The government tonight told a public already hungry for beef and pork that it would have to get along with 12 per cent less meat in the next three months.

Reasons: the worst meat famine since the drought-and-dust storm blight of 10 years ago; a four per cent increase in army and navy requirements; a six per cent drop in the U. S. meat supply from the first quarter of the year.

Six government agencies are rushing along as rapidly as possible emergency measures to improve the supply and assure equitable distribution. But, the war food administration said bluntly, there is no reason to believe the civilian supply picture will be any better in the third quarter than it will be in the April-May-June period.

Not until the fall livestock marketing season, the WFA said, will there be any substantial improvement in the picture, if then.

Meanwhile, the shortage is so serious that there will be a "substantial" reduction in lend-lease shipments of meat as well as in supplies for U. S. civilians. Only Russia and the United Kingdom will receive any lend-lease meat in the next three months.

A survey last week disclosed that meat supplies in stores already were at their lowest level since the start of the war.

The 12 per cent cut is an overall reduction. Civilians will get more veal, lamb, and mutton in the quarter starting on April Fool's day. But they will get enough less beef and pork, already scarce, to offset the increased supplies of veal, lamb, and mutton and still leave a 23 per cent cut.

Not even the government believes the dwindling meat supplies can be evenly distributed at first. All agencies concerned are working on a plan for equitable geographical distribution, but "some time" may elapse before the plan can produce results, it was said.

Meanwhile, the Office of Price Administration was authorized to issue new distribution regulations to slaughterers and to make meat subsidy adjustments, effective April 1, designed to stimulate movement of cattle and hogs to market.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Seattle, March 17—(U.P.)—Nary a kernel of rice could be found in the Seattle home of Mrs. E. O. Englin tonight. Her son, Sgt. Milton Englin, was home after 33 miserable, starving months in a Japanese prison camp on Luzon. As soon as he arrived home, the marine started hunting down packages of rice.

IRISH ON PARADE

New York, March 17—(U.P.)—It was the best day for the Irish in New York in 10 years. More than 1,000,000 persons turned out today to see the St. Patrick's day parade as it rolled up Fifth avenue under the first March 17 balmy breezes and spring sunshine in a decade.

OREGON DEFEATS COUGARS TO WIN NORTHERN TITLE

Webfeet Surge To 39-37
Victory In Last Half,
After Lagging

Eugene, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—The University of Oregon Webfeet battled their way to the Northern Division Title in the Pacific Coast Conference basketball race here Saturday night with a 39 to 37 win over the Cougars of Washington State in the third and final game of their post-season playoff.

Gathering fire as the game progressed, the Oregon team surged to the victory with a typical Webfoot rally. Shackled and hounded by Vince Hanson, tall Cougar center, and his teammates in the first half, the Webfeet left the battle scene on the short end of a 21 to 15 score—and that margin loomed large to everyone but the undiscouraged Webfeet.

The six-point deficit was shaved exactly in half in only four minutes as the systematic Oregon team gathered speed and confidence. Contrary to their efforts in the first half, they didn't waste a shot in the second half and they made every basket attempt count.

Midway of the third quarter, the Oregon team surged ahead as Del Smith tossed in a long one from the side, and 6,000 fans went wild as the home team went into the lead by a 26 to 25 score.

Bob Hamilton, Oregon guard, collected a free throw and the Oregon players were on their way. Another basket by Dick Wilkins gave them a three-point bulge, 29 to 26.

The Cougars fought back to tie the score at 31-31. However, Oregon went ahead on baskets by Bartelt, Wilkins, Hamilton put the game on ice for the new champions.

The Webfeet will leave Sunday night for Kansas City, Mo., where they are slated to play in the western finals of the NCAA meet.

Tall Vince Hanson had another one of his big nights with 17 points added to his 26 scored last night. For Oregon, Dick Wilkins with 12 points and Jim Bartelt with 10 points were high point scorers and also the most consistent players on the floor. Captain Bob Hamilton, with his leadership and six points in the scoring column, was a factor in the success of the Oregon team.

ESCAPED CONVICT STEALS CAR, BABY

Concord, Mass., March 17—(U.P.)—A two-year-old baby had a joyride today with an escaped convict from the Concord reformatory.

The child, Roger Mattison, son of a Brookline society girl, was found unharmed when the convict abandoned the Mattison car at Cambridge, 15 miles east of here.

Police said 18-year-old Robert St. Laurent walked away from a work squad removing ash cans from the homes of reformatory guards under cover of a thick fog.

He walked a half-mile to West Concord where he stole the sedan which Mrs. Elizabeth Mattison had parked outside a store while she shopped, leaving her baby on the back seat.

WASHINGTON WINS STATE TOGA 51-41

Salem, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—The rangy Washington Colonials of Portland tonight annexed the Oregon state high school basketball championship by tipping the Oregon City Pioneers, 51 to 41 in a fast final game of the 1945 tournament at the Willamette university gym here.

BANDIT WOUNDS COP

San Francisco, March 17—(U.P.)—Sgt. William Albrecht of the San Francisco police force was shot through the head and seriously wounded tonight when he attempted to arrest a hold-up suspect near the Bay bridge ramp.

WAR BULLETINS

London, March 17—(U.P.)—V-Bombs fell on southern England during the past 24 hours, but censorship did not permit disclosure of whether or not any had hit London. It was revealed Friday for the first time that V-2 bombs had been hitting London.

Mandalay, March 17—(U.P.)—British and Indian troops squeezed Japanese forces into a pocket slightly southeast of Fort Dufferin today as other empire troops a few miles to the south cut the main Rangoon-Mandalay highway.

By United Press
Chinese troops, gaining 18 miles in the past 24 hours, have advanced to the suburbs of Kanhsien, former American airbase city of Kiangsi province, a Chinese communiqué announced Saturday.

Rome, March 17—(U.P.)—Armored columns of the 5th army were hurled back from the northeastern approaches to Vergato by a vicious German counterthrust that also cost the Americans the village of Salvaro, it was announced today.

LUMBER STEAMER ASHORE IN GALE COOS BAY COAST

Crew of 31 Miraculously
Saved From Sea By
Coast Guardsmen

Coos Bay, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—Miraculous rescue of 31 seamen from the wrecked coastal steamer was completed at 9:20 tonight when the last 13 of the crew arrived safely on shore near Houser, Ore., aboard a life raft. Eighteen others had reached shore two hours earlier in the last life boat on the ship.

Coos Bay, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—A U. S. Coast Guard rescue crew tonight reported no signs of life aboard a small coastal steamer which was aground and battered on the Oregon coast north of Coos Bay.

A raging gale which this afternoon reached a velocity of nearly 100 miles an hour had battered the ship since it was sighted by the Coast Guardsmen continued efforts to find and save the seamen.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the ship belonged to the Olympic Steamship Company of San Francisco and that the skipper of the vessel was a Seattle, Wash., man, but names were withheld by request of the 13th Naval District.

Coast Guardsmen who were unable to put out rescue boats because of the fierce gale, were unsuccessful in attempts to throw lines to the vessel. Each time the lines missed or were swept from the deck by the heavy seas.

Visibility was still very poor tonight and it was difficult to tell the condition of the ship. Crewmen had tossed nearly 1,000,000 board feet of lumber overboard in an effort to lighten the load.

The lumber and wreckage is cluttering the Oregon beach in the vicinity of the wreck, but no bodies of crewmen have been found despite the belief that many of the men might have been swept overboard in the wreck and the gale.

WILLIAMS DEFEAT BY SENATE SEEN

Washington, March 17—(U.P.)—Sen. John H. Bankhead, D. Ala., predicted tonight that the nomination of Aubrey Williams to be REA administrator will come before the Senate Monday—and will be beaten.

Bankhead, sponsor of a resolution to displace temporarily the pending Mexican Water Treaty and consider the controversial Williams nomination, said in an interview that the Williams opponents have enough votes to keep the former NYA head out of the REA post.

It is "obvious" Bankhead said, that Williams' supporters are doing everything they can to delay a vote in the hope that doubtful senators may swing over in sufficient numbers to confirm the "left of center" New Dealer.

69 DAYS SESSION OF LEGISLATURE IS TERMINATED

Firemen's Pension Act Fails
—Public Health Bill
Changes Passed

Salem, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—Ending a record session, the Oregon State Legislature adjourned for another two years tonight.

The House broke up amid cheers and singing at 5:48 p. m. and the Senate followed at 6:04. The House was in recess during most of the afternoon as it waited for the Upper House to finish up the last odds and ends. The House rushed through its last business in a 10-minute session while the Senate dragged out its last brief meeting for nearly half an hour.

Repeated salvage attempts failed when sponsors of a Firemen's Pension Bill (HB207) successfully resisted a "do not pass" committee report, but lacked the required majority to suspend the rules for final passage. The issue has grown intense in recent days as paid and volunteer firemen sought the disability and pension benefits under the bill. Opponents said a General Public Employees Retirement Bill recently enacted would help them adequately, and the Firemen's Bill was unsound.

With a revamped Public Health Department Measure (SB89) stymied in House committee, the Senate gave final passage to a resolution (HJR17) to extract from it several provisions for strengthening industrial hygiene protection.

The House killed two Senate bills (SB333-334) to increase the state's "take" from racing. The Legislature adjourned with a record number of 69 days devoted to working over Oregon's laws and passing and rejecting new ones.

TAXICAB DRIVER GLEEFULLY TELLS OF SIX MURDERS

Little Rock, Ark., March 17—(U.P.)—James W. Hall, 24-year-old taxicab driver and confessed slayer of six persons, laughingly led officers tonight to the deserted country spot where he said he choked and beat his wife to death "on a dark night" last August.

Hall, "strutting like a proud turkey gobbler," displayed no emotion but high glee, the officers said, when they found Mrs. Hall's red dress, belt buckle and shoes, as well as the pile of bones that were her remains.

It was on the farm of C. Foster, overlooking the winding Arkansas river, where Hall stopped in a ravine and pointed out the spot.

In Foster's farm home, some distance away, the officers recovered a skull which Hall identified as that of his wife.

Hall told the officers, "Yep, that's her! See the crooked teeth. That's her!"

Foster said his children had made a plaything of the skull. He said he had not reported the finding of the skull because he thought it was "some foreigner who'd drowned in the Arkansas" and washed up on my place—maybe a German prisoner of war."

Hall told amazed officers that he drove with his wife into the country "on a dark night last August," led her up the road and down into the ravine and choked and beat her to death.

State police and city and county officers meanwhile studied details of his confession to the series of hitchhike murders and attempted to decide in which of four counties they would charge him with first degree murder.

CRASH INJURES 23

Providence, R. I., March 17—(U.P.)—Some 23 passengers were injured and a score more shaken tonight when a United Electric Railway Co. bus failed to negotiate a turn and crashed into an overpass upright.

NEW HOUSING PROJECT

Washington, March 17—(U.P.)—The National Housing Agency today authorized programs for the construction of new family housing units in seven cities, including 1,000 units for Seattle, Wash.

Captives of Rhine Battle



(Acme Radio-Telephoto)
German prisoners of war, bagged when Americans burst across the Rhine, are marched through Remagen on their way back to prisoner of war enclosures. They showed little regret that the war, for them, is over. Signal Corps radio-telephoto.

RUSSIANS SPLIT NAZI DEFENDERS OF BALTIC PORTS

London, Sunday, March 18—(U.P.)—The red army, whittling down the Germans' Oder bridge head opposite Stettin to 30 square miles, yesterday seized the eastern end of the Autobahn bridge south of the blazing port on a six-lane, high-speed highway to Berlin, Moscow announced last night.

The Germans undoubtedly had blasted the structure, but the Russians are known as the world's fastest bridge restorers. Moscow dispatches said huge soviet forces were passing before the crossing site as well as along the Oder estuary north of Stettin for an outflanking drive on the reich capital.

While Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first White Russian army stormed Stettin's docks and suburb, Altdamm, other soviet troops were reported by unofficial Moscow sources to have smashed to the sea between Gdynia and Danzig, splitting the defenders of those Baltic ports.

The soviets apparently reached Danzig bay in the area of Zoppot, a peace-time gambling resort between Danzig and Gdynia, a Moscow dispatch said. Other Russians stormed suburban Altdamm across the Oder mouth from burning Stettin and it appeared that all three ports might be in soviet hands in a matter of days if not of hours.

The soviet high command clamped a news blackout on the 200-mile crucial sector between Stettin and the Sudeten foothills, but a Moscow dispatch said: "There is reason to expect significant events in the very near future."

RHINE CITIES TO GET BOMBARDING

London, March 17—(U.P.)—A spokesman for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower broadcast a warning over the British radio to night to civilians and workers in Frankfurt on the Main and the twin Rhine cities of Ludwigshafen and Mannheim that those points would be bombed mercilessly by the Allies. The broadcast advised civilians to move to safe places outside those combat areas.

Woman Prisoner Is Mother Second Time

Jefferson City, Mo., March 17—(U.P.)—Authorities at the Missouri state penitentiary said today that "Miss Clara Fish, 32-year-old inmate serving a term for murder, had given birth to a nine-pound boy.

It was the second time she has become a mother since she entered the prison in 1932. In March, 1936, she became the mother of a child but it died at birth.

The red-haired woman revealed her pregnancy to prison officials last Sept. 15. She charged that a convict attacked her in the women's dormitory in June. The convict denied the charge.

OPA ORDERS CUT IN APRIL QUOTA CIVILIAN TIRES

Washington, March 17—(U.P.)—The office of price administration took another big slice out of civilian tire quotas tonight and, in addition, ordered old purchase certificates cancelled.

The agency said that in April the civilian passenger tire allocation will be only 1,000,000 tires, a cut of 27½ per cent from the March quota of 1,360,000.

This bad news came shortly after War Production Chief J. A. Krug said tires would remain one of the most critical programs "as long as the war lasts."

Under the reduced quotas, only the most essential types of drivers will be granted purchase certificates.

Outstanding certificates dated before December 1, 1944, will be cancelled by April 1, the OPA said, to eliminate the threat that these certificates—estimated to number 2,000,000—would present to the drastically reduced supply.

A shortage of carbon black, an essential ingredient in tire manufacture, was blamed by OPA for the April cut.

Krug said new facilities to increase carbon black production are being rushed into operation. But he warned that "however much production is stepped up military demands will continue to be heavy."

WCTU FROWNS ON LIQUOR AT MEET

Chicago, March 17—(U.P.)—Approval of liquor and entertainment appropriation for the San Francisco United Nations conference means that "John Barleycorn instead of the churches" will sit at the peace and post-war conference table, the Women's Christian Temperance Union said today.

Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, president of the WCTU, said house approval in Washington of a \$585,000 appropriation for the state department should be condemned. She urged that its further progress be opposed by all "clear-thinking Americans."

Former Duce Aide Held War Criminal

By United Press
The British radio said Saturday that a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Dino Grandi, former Italian fascist foreign minister and ambassador to Britain, by the Rome Commission in charge of punishing fascist war criminals. The broadcast, heard by the FCC, said Grandi had fled to Portugal.

SAYS RED WILLING

Seattle, March 17—(U.P.)—Russia will enter actively into a world organization of nations if it is convinced that organization can maintain peace, David M. Noehol, war correspondent for the Chicago Daily News, said here today.

COBLENZ TOPPLES, TANKS DRIVE FOR RICH SAAR BASIN

Patton Near Junction With
Seventh Army—Nazi Retreat Balked

Paris, Sunday, March 18—(U.P.)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d army captured the major Rhineland city of Coblenz yesterday while three of his tank divisions were enveloping the rich Saar basin and approaching a juncture with the U. S. 7th army, less than 50 miles away.

Three 3d army tank divisions, plus other tank battalions attached to infantry, already were 40 miles south of Coblenz in the swiftest power drive of the war. They reached the Nahe river and were threatening the 11-day road and rail junction of Bad Kreuznach, the transportation key to the Saar basin.

Authoritative sources at Gen. Omar N. Bradley's 12th army group headquarters said the Germans had waited too long to effect a successful withdrawal from the Saar to the east bank of the Rhine and would elect to stand and fight with the remnants of their 1st and 7th armies rather than attempt a last-minute helter-skelter retreat.

But Allied airmen spotted large scale withdrawals from the closing Saar trap, and it seemed evident that the Germans were attempting to salvage what they could to fight another day on the east bank of the Rhine.

They spotted many columns of trucks and horse-drawn vehicles fleeing south and southeast before Patton's armored columns, trying to reach the railroads running east to the Rhine through Kaiserslautern, and thence to safety across the Rhine.

Third army spokesmen said the speed of the drive—33 miles in less than 48 hours—caught the Germans flat-footed and prevented them offering coherent resistance.

The drives of the tank columns were cloaked in a security blackout, but German dispatches said massed tank formations of the 4th armored division had reached the area of Bad Kreuznach, major transit hub 40 miles south of Koblenz and nine miles south of the big bend of the Rhine at Bingen.

At Bad Kreuznach they were only 50 miles from a junction with the 7th army's 63d division at Ommensheim and 55 miles from the 100th division at Bittche. To the east and southeast it is 22 miles to Oppenheim on the Rhine and 26 miles to the great Rhine center of Worms.

Late front dispatches disclosed that the 10th and 11th armored divisions were racing south parallel with the 4th to trap the remnants of two German armies against the Rhine and between the tank columns and the U. S. 7th army.

OREGON WHISKEY SUPPLY IS AMPLE

Portland, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—Oregon has liquor on hand to avert any cutting of rations for the next several months, Chairman Hugh R. Kirkpatrick of the state liquor control commission said today.

The state is in better condition than any other, from a drinkers' point of view, Kirkpatrick said in reporting on a national survey. Six of the 17 states in which liquor is sold by the package rather than by the drink, have been forced to cut rations since February 10.

The Burke bill to regulate the sale of fortified wine apparently has caused the sale of sweet wines to drop in Oregon.

Grant Union Wins Third Place Spot

Salem, Ore., March 17—(U.P.)—A foul shot in the last 30 seconds of play by Glen Eddy of Grant Union high gave his team a 28 to 27 triumph over Arlington and third place in the state high school basketball tournament's "B" division.

The winners came from behind in the first quarter to tie Arlington 13-13 at the halfway mark and then went on to nab a 22 to 18 lead at the end of the third quarter.