

HUNDREDS DIE AS TWO AMMUNITION SHIPS EXPLODE

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MIGHTY U. S. SEA-AIR ARMADA BATTERS JAP-HELD GUAM

Stolen Isle Pounded For Thirteen Days

Air Force of Japanese Apparently Wiped Out, Land Defenses Smashed

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, July 18.—(AP)—Bombed by America's biggest battleships and ripped by the most intensive rocket attack ever loosed on a Pacific island, Japanese-held Guam appeared today to be at the threshold of significant developments.

Opposed only by ineffective shore batteries, the battle wagons trained their highly destructive guns, along with the guns of cruisers and destroyers, on Japanese defenses Saturday. The next day, carrier planes went after anti-aircraft batteries and barracks with rockets and fire bombs.

These developments, reported last night by Adm. Nimitz, carried the defense-leveiling attacks on Guam through 13 uninterrupted days. The assault opened July 4, four days before Yank invasion forces completed the conquest of Saipan, 125 miles to the northeast in the same Marianas chain, an integral part of Nippon's inner defense ring.

The Jap air force on Guam apparently has been wiped out and the almost inconsequential losses listed for the Americans seem to indicate ground defenses are being smothered. Admiral Nimitz said the enemy shore batteries caused no damage to the warships Saturday—fifth naval shelling of Guam this month—and only one divebomber was lost Sunday.

Cargo Ships Destroyed

Other air blows, announced today from the southwest Pacific by Gen. MacArthur, cut deeper into Japan's depleted merchant marine.

A 1,500-ton freighter-transport, (Continued on page 6)

Tojo Relinquishes One Post; Warns Japs Crisis Faced

NEW YORK, July 18.—(AP)—Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu has been appointed chief of the Japanese army general staff, taking one of the posts held by Premier Tojo, a Japanese broadcast declared today.

There was no immediate indication that assignment of the staff job to Umezu, long one of the most powerful of the Japanese militarists, meant any real diminution of Tojo's power.

Tojo, recounting the loss of Saipan, was quoted today in an earlier Tokyo broadcast as declaring "the real war is yet to be fought." He appealed to the Japanese to "set the mind of his imperial majesty at rest."

Tojo confessed himself "moved by great trepidation by the thought that deep anxiety has been caused" the Mikado.

This broadcast followed upon an imperial headquarters announcement that all Japanese resistance on Saipan had come to an end; that the entire garrison of the once-powerful Japanese base had been wiped out, and that among those slain were Vice-Admiral Nacumo, supreme commander in the Saipan area, and his two chief aides, Lt. Gen. Saito and Rear Admiral Tsujimura.

Nagumo's death previously had been reported by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Tojo's statement, read to Japanese home and empire listeners, advised them that "Japan has come to face an unprecedentedly great national crisis."

The shift in the army command came a day after a similar change in the navy, with Admiral Nomura replacing Admiral Shimada as navy minister. The naval changes were widely interpreted as a sequel to the disastrous defeats of the Japanese forces in last month's sea-air battle east of the Philippines and the loss of Saipan.

President's Mild Praise of Wallace Boon to Opponents

Byrnes, Barkley Cut Into Strength Of Vice President

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—Supporters put in a hurry-up call today for Vice President Wallace to come to Chicago and take personal charge of a campaign for renomination which appeared to lag after President Roosevelt's public, but mild, expression of personal support.

In a letter telephoned to the vice president's office in Washington, Jake More, Iowa state chairman, urged Wallace to come to Chicago to counter the offensive of the "butters-in." More said he was trying to confuse delegates.

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes and Senator Alben Barkley cut visibly today into the support of vainly-praised Henry A. Wallace in a furious pre-convention battle for the backing of delegates that President Roosevelt said must "do the deciding" on a democratic vice presidential nomination.

In what one official, who preferred to remain anonymous, called a "perfunctory dismissal" of the present vice president, Mr. Roosevelt made it clear that while he likes and respects Wallace as a friend and personally would vote for his renomination if he were a delegate, the convention opening tomorrow has the

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Counter-Drive on Japanese In Rail Sector Launched

CHUNGKING, July 18.—(AP)—Chinese press reports lacking official confirmation said today the Chinese had started a counter-drive along the Peiping-Hankow railway and at the same time were campaigning to sweep the Japanese back along the Canton-Hankow railway in Hunan province.

The Chinese, claiming still to be in possession of Hengyang in the Hunan fighting, said they had launched a counter-drive against the Japanese in the area of Lei-yang, 34 miles south of Hengyang, on the railway.

Countering Japanese claims of victory in a raid July 14 on Kwelin, provisional capital of Kwangsi province, Lt. Gen. Stilwell's headquarters said that American fliers had turned back the raiders and shot down five and damaged three of the enemy planes without loss to themselves.

The Japanese had declared that 87 American planes were destroyed on the ground. Stilwell's communiqué said that the enemy bombs missed the target completely, and added that the following day on a bombing mission over Hunan province six enemy fighters were destroyed.

Girl Drowns After She Rescues Her Brother

EUGENE, Ore., July 18.—(AP)—Within a few minutes after she pulled her brother, Stephen, a year her senior, from the waters of Lost creek, little Eleanor Louise Parker, 7, of Dexter, was drowned in practically the same spot.

While her playmates were excitedly gathered around young Stephen after his rescue from the water, Eleanor apparently stepped into the same spot, and had disappeared from sight when they turned around to thank her.

The girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Parker, had bought their Dexter farm just recently, having moved here last week from Santa Ana, Calif.

Votes Claimed For Wallace Not Enough by 270

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—As delegation caucuses got under way in earnest today in an effort to settle on a running mate for President Roosevelt, Associated Press tabulations gave this tangible picture of the vice-presidential situation:

Pledged to Vice President Henry A. Wallace: Iowa, 20; Minnesota, 24; Oregon, 14; Washington, 18. Total, 76.

Claimed for Wallace: California, 27 (out of 52); Colorado, 12; Delaware, 8; Florida, 18; Georgia, 26; Michigan, 38; Montana, 10; Pennsylvania, 72; Wisconsin, 26; District of Columbia, 6. Total, 243.

Grand total of pledged and claimed for Wallace, 319. Needed for nomination, 589.

Pledged to James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, Mississippi, 20. This leaves a block of 837 votes in 35 states and the territories unpledged and unclaimed by any candidate.

Kentucky's 24 votes are pledged to Senator Barkley if he permits his name to be offered. South Carolina's delegation, with 18 votes, decided to submit Byrnes' name for the vice presidential nomination and it is assumed that bloc will go for him if his name is forwarded.

It also is assumed that Missouri's 52 convention votes would be for Senator Harry Truman should his name come before the convention.

LONDON, July 18.—(AP)—German captors have shot 33 more allied fliers, Sir James Grigg, war secretary, told Commons today.

Foreign Secretary Eden announced on June 23 that 50 captured fliers had been shot by the nazis.

Sir James said that in 27 of the new cases, the men were alleged to have been shot while attempting escapes. The circumstances of the other six killings were not immediately disclosed.

The strongest protests have been made through the British protecting power (Switzerland) and an account of the killings is being kept for action by the war criminals' commission, Sir James said. There was no immediate disclosure whether other than British fliers were killed.

Fire Destroys Unit of Douglas Aircraft Plant

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—The administration building at the 33 million dollar Douglas aircraft plant in suburban Park Ridge was destroyed today in a spectacular fire which for a time threatened the huge factory which builds the giant C-54 cargo planes.

The big factory was only slightly damaged. Three Chicago firemen were reported slightly injured.

Damage was estimated by John C. Buckwalter, plant manager, at \$1,500,000.

N. Umpqua Highway to Diamond Lake Now O. K.

The North Umpqua road to Diamond lake is now in good condition and no one need hesitate about driving over the route, Forest Supervisor V. V. Harpham reported today. Maintenance work has been in progress for several weeks and is being continued in the Copeland creek area, where gravel is being placed for surfacing, and drainage improved.

Peace Alliance Plank Asked By American Legion

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—A declaration for postwar participation of the United States in an association of nations—"implied with whatever force may be necessary to maintain world peace"—was proposed to the democratic platform committee today by the American legion.

It was presented to the platform drafter by Louis A. Johnson, head of the legion's post-war committee, former national commander, former undersecretary of war and personal representative of President Roosevelt in India.

Embodying a resolution of its last national convention, the legion statement said:

"Our own national concern must ever be our first concern and we believe that our nation can best serve and protect its national interest, commensurate with its power and responsibilities by participating in the establishment and maintenance of an association of free and sovereign nations, implemented with whatever force may be necessary to maintain world peace and prevent a recurrence of war."

The platform drafter also received demands for a party declaration favoring quick peacetime elimination of the War Labor board, the manpower commission and the wage stabilization act.

The proposals were advanced by John R. Suman, director of the National Association of manufacturers.

Knottiest issue before the platform committee at the moment is a controversy over the wording of a plank dealing with the race question. Negro association leaders urged an outright statement against poll taxes and removal of any discriminations, which promptly ran head-on into an opposition movement among southern delegates.

Dewey Remains Choice Of Mrs. James Farley

CHICAGO, July 18.—(AP)—Mrs. James A. Farley arrived today for the democratic convention, and said she still thinks she will vote for the republican presidential nominee.

Mrs. Farley, wife of the former postmaster general and former democratic national chairman, was asked whether there is any chance her presence here means that she had changed her mind about not supporting President Roosevelt.

"Not a chance," she said. "And you will vote for Governor Dewey?" she was asked.

"Yes, sir," she said. Mrs. Farley was here during the republican convention and said then she would vote for its nominee if President Roosevelt ran again.

Two Man-Caused Fires Break Forest's Record

Two man-caused fires have broken a three-year record on the Umpqua National forest, V. V. Harpham, supervisor, reported today. For three years the forest has had no fires caused by carelessness but last week there were two acts of negligence which might have had serious results had they not been quickly discovered.

In the Diamond lake camping area a cigarette started a fire on a decayed log. The blaze was discovered and extinguished before damage resulted. At Eagle Rock forest camp on the North Umpqua river, a warning fire had been built outside a fire place. The fire was discovered to be spreading and was halted before it could cause damage.

Area of Coast Range Under Closure Order

Entry Into Designated Douglas Regions Needs Permit After July 21

The coast range area in Douglas county was today ordered closed to entry, effective July 22, upon proclamation by Governor Earl Snell. The closing order, the same as in previous years, roughly includes the coast range area from the Roseburg-Coos Bay highway on the south to the Umpqua and Smith rivers on the north.

No entry into these forest areas is allowed except on permit. Persons ordinarily are issued to any parties having reason to visit the closed lands, but such procedure gives forest agencies a method for regulating the number of persons in the area.

Severe penalties are provided for persons found in the closed areas without permits.

Permit Stations Listed

Stations where permits to enter may be obtained are listed as follows:

District No. 1—Ernest Short ranch, Wandell's ranch, Arthur Hardesty ranch, Cougar creek station, Landers lookout, Charles Wilson ranch.

District No. 2—Elkhead fire station, Glide fire station, Hinkle creek fire station, Rock creek fire station.

District No. 3—Camas Valley fire station, West Fork fire station, Riddle fire station.

District No. 4—Riddle fire station, Glendale fire station, West Fork fire station.

District No. 5—Leona fire station, Elk creek guard station.

District No. 6—Days creek fire station, Milo store, Azalea fire station.

District No. 7—Leona fire station, Chapman's sawmill, Edwards ranch.

In addition to stations listed above, permits to enter any of the

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Allies Closing In On Florence and 2 Important Ports

ROME, July 18.—(AP)—Dogged advances in three sectors of the transpeninsular Italian front increased the allied menace today to Germans in the great inland area center of Florence and the ports of Ancona and Livorno.

British and South African infantry and tanks which established a bridgehead on the wide and deeply gorged Arno river yesterday advanced to a point south of Cincelli, six miles northwest of Arezzo and about 30 air-line miles from Florence. A bridge was captured intact from bewildered German engineers, also seized as they waited for a signal to dynamite it. On the mountainous Tuscan front to the west, other allied troops were within 20-odd miles of Florence but intervening terrain elsewhere promised slow progress.

Poles near the Adriatic advanced up to three miles on Ancona and won Monte Bogo and another height, from which an eight-mile drive northward would trap the important port.

American infantry, within light artillery range of Livorno, third ranking Italian port, sought to ease allied supply problems, rolled back continued German counter-attacks and cut through enemy defenses at Ponsacco, road junction in the Era valley three miles south of the Arno river. At that point, the GI's were 18 miles east and slightly north of the prized port, headquarters announced.

An official source reported virtually all bridges across the Arno on the Fifth army front blown up by the enemy or by American bombs. He added that the river is fordable in many places and the Germans have put up pontoon bridges for a withdrawal.

Hard Battle Puts Yankees Into St. Lo

Victory Carries Control Of Vital Roads; Combat Near Caen Increasing

AMERICAN FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 18 (AP) St. Lo is firmly in American hands and the last German has been driven out, a staff officer declared tonight.

The enemy has been forced to withdraw two to three kilometers (up to about two miles) along the eastern two-thirds of the 18-mile American front in Normandy, he declared.

WITH AMERICAN TROOPS AT ST. LO, July 18.—(AP)—American troops stormed into the outskirts of St. Lo today after German defenses suddenly crumpled on the north and east. The doughboys met only light opposition and there were indications the Germans would not try a house-to-house stand for the city.

The enemy was forced to withdraw from this important middle anchor of their Normandy line, which they fought so savagely to hold in one of the bloodiest and hardest battles of the invasion.

The break came dramatically and suddenly, after the doughboys had fallen back last night from the city's outskirts under enemy counter-attacks.

But these thrusts were the dying struggles of the Germans, and even as the counter-attacks were made, unengaged troops pulled back. Some units were cut off from communications and were unaware of the orders to withdraw.

Control of St. Lo will give Lt. Gen. Bradley's forces strategic roadways radiating in all directions, and smash the last anchor point, except for Periers, which the Germans held along the 48-mile Leshay-St. Lo front.

Caen Zone Battle Furious

Meanwhile the heaviest battle (Continued on page 6)

Titanic Russian Offensive Poised To Hit Germans

MOSCOW, July 18.—(AP)—There is every reason to believe in Moscow today that the red army is ready to hurl the greatest offensive in Russia's three years of war against the staggering Germans—an offensive which may throw the whole front into violent activity from the far north to the south.

(Wordings of the dispatch through censorship suggested that red armies south of the Pripyat marshes in Old Poland may indeed have struck toward the great European rail center of Lwow, as the Germans have reported for four days. Other Russian army groups may have lunged toward the Galati gap in Rumania between the Carpathians and the Danube.)

With their backs against the east Prussian border, besides giving ground swiftly in the mid-Baltic and between Brest Litovsk and Bialystok in the direction of Warsaw and the river Bug, the Germans are in their most desperate situation of the war.

"The borders of east Prussia are just ahead," wrote Izvestia's correspondent.

A startling spectre faced the Germans as the red army developed a wedge between Bialystok and Brest Litovsk in a drive that put the soviets only 120 miles east of Warsaw.

Driving along the Moscow-Riga railway, the Baltic forces advanced to within a mile of the eastern frontier of Latvia by capturing Stolbovo after storming through the hotly-defended junction of Sebezh to the east. The Moscow communiqué said more than 2,000 Germans were captured.

Night Disaster on Branch Of San Francisco Bay Also Razes Nearby Town of Port Chicago

Hospitals Jammed With Injured, Utility Systems Destroyed; Area of Fifty Miles Rocked by Blast; Tentative Total of Dead Placed as High as 350

PORT CHICAGO, Calif., July 18.—(AP)—As many as 350 men may have died in the thundering explosion of two ammunition ships at a navy munitions dock here.

That estimate today of last night's tragedy was based on the navy's official statement that at least 200 to 250 navy men were missing and presumed lost, and on a combined civilian crew list of about 130 men for the two ships.

The vessels, shattered into bits by the dual explosions, were identified by the navy as the S. S. Quinault Victory of the United States lines, a victory ship, and the S. S. E. A. Bryan, operated by the Oliver J. Olson lines.

Almost every house in the little town of Port Chicago—a village of 1,500—was wrecked. The blast was felt 50 miles away.

Loss of the ships, the munitions and property damage will run into many millions of dollars.

Six at Clip Hikes His Total to 22



Capt. Fred J. Christensen, Jr., above, of Watertown, Mass., set a record for fighter pilots recently when he downed six enemy planes on a single mission. The day's bag brings the 8th air force fighter's total to 22.

Dewey Refuses to "Connive" With Ballot Juggling

ALBANY, N. Y., July 18.—(AP)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, republican presidential nominee, asserting that "a group with unlimited financial resources has been playing partisan politics with the right of New York state's fighting men to vote," said today "it is time that this campaign of deceit was labeled and exposed."

Urging families of service men to write to them, "telling them the truth about their right to vote in the state," Dewey said New York's soldier vote law is "a model of simplicity drawn to fit precisely title 2 of the federal law."

Dewey said he had been urged to approve the federal supplementary ballot, which he declared was only "a partial ballot for four offices and would be void and worthless under the constitution of this state."

He added: "I decline to connive with any group advocating use of a ballot by our fighting men which, under the constitution of New York state, could not be counted."

Last week a New York delegation, whose leaders said numbered more than 700, visited Albany to urge Governor Dewey to approve the federal ballot for service men and women overseas. They were refused an audience with the governor.

Market Operator Dies From Thief's Assault

PORTLAND, Ore., July 18.—(AP)—Ira Edward Briggs, 57, was fatally beaten today in his small vegetable market in suburban Portland, apparently by a bandit who entered the stall in the early hours of the morning.

Passersby discovered the Portland man in a semi-conscious condition. He died a few hours later in a Vannort hospital.

Police said Briggs told them he did not see the person who struck him on the head after robbing him of \$40.

The victim lived in a tent back of his stall. His widow, Reona Briggs, lives at Salem.

The Bryan was literally shredded by a mighty explosion at 10:19 p. m. Only seconds later the larger Victory ship blew up and the earth quaked to the thunder in the heavens.

One man, a mile away, said he saw "a mile-high skyrocket" of red and white flame leap into the clouds.

Two small coast guard boats were sunk by the explosions. Wreckage swept over Suisan bay, which branches east from San Francisco bay.

No civilian dead had been found, Sheriff James N. Long of Contra Costa county reported, although 150 civilians had been injured, principally from flying debris, broken glass and the falling walls of houses.

The explosion, at 10:19 p. m., destroyed communications and power facilities and broke windows 20 and 30 miles away.

One man a mile away was blown 100 feet.

Chaos In Darkness

The explosion, of undetermined origin, showered parts of the ship's superstructure, at least a mile. One 300-pound piece of steel fell in the main street of Port Chicago, one mile from the naval depot.

For a time Port Chicago was a confused, chaotic scene of dying and other injured crying in the darkness.

Medical aid was rushed from neighboring communities and the Mare Island navy yard, 14 miles away. The Red Cross rushed in.

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Reich Blasted In 2-Way Air Sweeps

LONDON, July 18.—(AP)—A thousand American warplanes from Britain flew deep into eastern Germany and bombed German rocket bomb experimental stations at Peenemunde and Zonnowitz, and another force from Italy struck in the southwest reich at Friedrichshafen and Memmingen.

A virtually endless procession of allied air power struck again and again at German objectives in support of ground troops in Normandy, centering their blows in the rectangle roughly bounded by the Somme and Loire rivers, further isolating the erupting battlefield.

A great weight of explosives were plunged into the experimental bomb stations by 500 to 750 Flying Fortresses, escorted by hundreds of fighters, Peenemunde and Zinnowitz are on the Baltic coast about 600 miles from British bases. Other important war targets in northwest Germany were assaulted in this fifth forceful blow at the German homeland in eight days.

An aircraft factory was bombed at Friedrichshafen, just across the waters of the Bodensee from Switzerland. An airbase was struck at Memmingen, 64 miles to the northeast.

Some of the allied bombers, the Germans declared, penetrated to the vicinity of Berlin itself, which was hit during the night by the RAF's Mosquitos, carrying two-ton "blockbusters."

Nazi broadcasts reported violent aerial battles raging over Bavaria, western Prussia and the Danzig area.

Levy Fact Rant

Tojo, servitor of the "Son of Heaven," is learning that he cannot serve the devil at the same time and succeed. Old man hara-kiri may be in the offing.