

Japs' Greatest Navy Unit Is Sunk

Battleship Yamato, Five Other Combat Ships, 391 Planes Lost In Fight With U. S. Navy Airmen

GUAM, April 7 (UP) — Japan's greatest battleship, the 40,000-ton Yamato, and five other warships were sunk today by aircraft of Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's carrier task forces in a naval-air battle fought in the East China sea. More than a fourth of the enemy's remaining fleet was destroyed in the engagement.

Three hundred and ninety-one Japanese aircraft were shot down or destroyed by American airmen in air battles Friday and Saturday ranging from embattled Okinawa to Kyushu, Japan's most southerly home island.

Japan thus gambled her waning surface and air fleet in a desperate attempt to stem the inexorable advance of allied arms, and lost heavily again.

A light cruiser of the Agano class, a small cruiser and three destroyers were sunk by U. S. pilots in addition to the Yamato in the battle off southern Japan. The enemy's fleet consisted of 12 warships.

Three U. S. Destroyers Lost
American battle losses were seven aircraft and three destroyers. Several destroyers and smaller craft were damaged, fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced.

Twenty-two Japanese planes were destroyed or damaged on Kyushu airfield by navy search planes, in addition to the 391 shot down in a great aerial victory reminiscent of the "Marianas turkey shoot" off Guam June 18, 1944.

Today was the first time the sequestered Japanese navy has ventured forth to do the U. S. seventh and fifth thrust at the American Philippines bridgehead.

In both the aerial and naval counter-attacks, the Japanese were attempting to disrupt our successful invasion of the Ryukyus. The counter-attacks were divided into two phases.

The first was off Okinawa where large forces of Japanese planes attacked American ships and shore installations in the late afternoon of Friday.

The second was on Saturday when Mitscher's first carriers engaged the Japanese naval vessels caught emerging from the inland sea. They were sighted by naval search aircraft as they headed into the East China sea.

The force of destroyers screened the Yamato was sinking — Mitscher, steaming toward the Japanese force at high speed, see BATTLESHIP ... Page 7

Destroyers Screen Yamato
The second was on Saturday when Mitscher's first carriers engaged the Japanese naval vessels caught emerging from the inland sea. They were sighted by naval search aircraft as they headed into the East China sea.

The force of destroyers screened the Yamato was sinking — Mitscher, steaming toward the Japanese force at high speed, see BATTLESHIP ... Page 7

Destroyers Screen Yamato
The second was on Saturday when Mitscher's first carriers engaged the Japanese naval vessels caught emerging from the inland sea. They were sighted by naval search aircraft as they headed into the East China sea.

The force of destroyers screened the Yamato was sinking — Mitscher, steaming toward the Japanese force at high speed, see BATTLESHIP ... Page 7

Destroyers Screen Yamato
The second was on Saturday when Mitscher's first carriers engaged the Japanese naval vessels caught emerging from the inland sea. They were sighted by naval search aircraft as they headed into the East China sea.

La Grande Evening Observer

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 7, 1945 FIVE CENTS

Hannover, Bremen Isolated Russians Battle In Vienna

Center of Capital Is Assaulted

LONDON, April 7 (UP)—The Berlin radio said today that the German army had lost Moedling, southern suburb of Vienna, after bloody fighting from house to house.

LONDON, April 7 (UP)—A dramatic broadcast from Vienna said today that the Russians had broken into the Austrian capital and were nearing the center in heavy street fighting.

The rattle of gunfire punctuated the broadcast, London newspapers said. Speakers called on the inhabitants — nearly 2,000,000 in 1939 — to stand firm.

"Volkssturm (home guards) are going into line," the broadcast said. "With the German Wehrmacht, Grenadiers and SS men, they are going to defend their homes."

"Every yard of ground is being defended to the last, but the Russians have increased the momentum of their attacks. Fighting is now going on around and in Vienna itself ... Garrison units are fighting against the Russians on the edge of the city's center."

Cathedral Sounds Alarm
Monitors said the announcement was preceded by the ringing of the bells of St. Stephen's cathedral, which also sounded the alarm when Turks stood at the gates of Vienna many years ago.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report that the Russians were nearing the center of Vienna, but Moscow dispatches said the Red army was fighting for the Simmering district just inside the city limits on the southeast.

The Red army reached Simmering, see AUSTRIAN ... Page 7



FRUITS OF OPPRESSION—As so many thousands of Nazi victims have done, Hitler's people themselves now fight for food. Photo above shows German women battling over food left behind by retreating German troops. Woman at right has just knocked down the older one in center. At left, a one-armed man, possibly a war casualty, doffs his hat, perhaps in politeness, perhaps in salute to Amazon fighting ability.

Vast Gold Reserves of Germany Captured by American Troops

WITH THE 90TH INFANTRY DIVISION AT MERKERS, April 7 (UP)—American troops today captured what was believed to be the entire German gold reserve, huge sums in German and foreign currency, and a large store of German's most valuable art treasures hidden in a salt mine.

The treasure trove, evacuated from Berlin in the last six weeks, was found here in one of the largest salt mines in Europe 99 miles west of Weimar.

German officials, captured at the mine, estimated there was 100 tons of gold in the mine. That would be \$24,000,000 at the American rate of \$35 a troy ounce.

In addition, the Germans said, there was about \$3,000,000,000 in paper reichsmarks, \$2,000,000 in U. S. dollars, about \$440,000 in English pounds, as well as 100,000,000 French francs, 4,000,000 Norwegian crowns, and lesser amounts of other currency in the mine.

Art Treasures Found
The art treasures include originals by Raphael, Rembrandt, Van Dyke, Durer and Rubens. The Germans said there were 1,000 cases of paintings and statuettes, 150 tapestries, thousands of engravings and 120 cases of the original Goethe collection from Weimar.

The gold was stored in a chamber 2,100 feet below the ground. The doors of the gold vault had been jammed and it was impossible immediately to verify the story of the German officials.

However, with the American troops which found the trove I see VAST GERMAN ... Page 7

Chinese-Russian Gateway Menaced

SIAN, North China, April 6 (Delayed) — (UP) — Japanese mechanized columns are pushing toward this ancient walled city today in a drive which, if unchecked, might eventually sever China's back door road to Soviet Russia.

Chinese counter-attacks yesterday temporarily halted Japanese spearheads converging from the east and south toward Sian, Sian, capital of Shensi province, lies approximately 300 miles almost directly north of Chungking.

State Observance Of Sunday School Week Is Urged

SALEM, Ore., April 7 (UP)—Governor Snell today urged the people of Oregon to support national Sunday school week, April 9-15.

"Encouragement of the Sunday schools and Sunday school attendance can be an important factor in eliminating juvenile delinquency and in speeding the general spiritual awakening," the governor said.

Can Salvage To Be Resumed As Tin Crisis Grows

Responding to the government's plea for salvage of every ounce of available tin, the Union county salvage committee, headed by L. A. Bohnenkamp and R. W. Schaad, today announced the resumption of can collections in La Grande and urged every housewife to save cans for monthly collections.

Due to the distance from Eastern Oregon counties to the detinning plant in San Francisco officials of the salvage division of the war production board have considered it uneconomical to move salvaged cans from this area, but the tin situation has become so acute in recent months that every possible source of this highly important commodity is being combed.

First Collection April 25
In cooperation with the junior chamber of commerce, the county committee has arranged to have the first local collection of cans made on April 25th in connection with the waste paper collection of the junior chamber and boy scouts.

Thereafter collections will be made one day during the last week of each month, on days to be specified in advance of the collection date.

The salvage chairman emphasized that cans must be properly prepared by housewives.

Both ends of the cans must be removed, placed inside the can, and the can flattened to reduce space required for shipment and time in handling.

Labels also must be removed from all cans, and the cans cleaned and kept from rusting. Bohnenkamp announced that see TIN CAN ... Page 7

Coal Wage Pact Agreement Seen

WASHINGTON, April 7 (UP)—The soft coal wage conference reported to the war labor board today that it expected to reach an agreement, at least in principle, on all controversial points of a new wage agreement by Monday night.

Chairman Ezra Van Horn said the conference appointed three subcommittees this morning to deal with "technical questions." They "reported progress," he said.

Consequently, Van Horn said, the operators will not meet with the war labor board as scheduled to report a breakdown of negotiations. They will send a letter to WLB reporting the new turn of events.

Nazi Lines In North Tottering

PARIS, April 7 (UP) — Two American and one British army today drove across the Weser river on a fifty mile front, striking a little more than 130 miles from Berlin and splintering the connections of Hannover and Bremen with the central German front.

The American First army hurled the Weser to join the British Second and American Ninth which already were well forward of the Weser river barrier before Berlin shot of the Elbe.

The First army crossing was made northeast of Kassel and advance troops pushed 1,500 yards beyond the river at an undisclosed point for a gain of 30 miles from their jump-off point near Paderborn.

Long Gains Established
The Ninth and Second armies scored gains of 22 to 26 miles, cracking the whole northern flank of the German positions, despite Nazi reserves rushed in from Denmark in a desperate effort to hold the battle lines.

British forces were 150 miles beyond the Rhine but the advanced point was under a security blackout. However, Hannover was rapidly being encircled from the northwest, west, south, and southeast, where American troops were only 11 miles from the city.

(Swedish dispatches said Radio Hannover went off the air suddenly at 11 a. m. after flashing a warning that the Americans were nearing the city.)

Other British forces were reported within 10 to 12 miles see HANNOVER ... Page 7

Army, Navy Join In Rescue Of Flood Victims

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 7 (UP)—Army assault boats, naval amphibious planes and helicopters were pressed into service today to evacuate trapped families from flooded districts in central Louisiana where the swollen Mississippi has inundated an estimated 500,000 acres of rich farmland.

The river is still under control in most places, but disaster officials warned that "the fight has just begun" and predicted that the worst would come next week when the river and its tributaries reach their crest.

Army field kitchens and emergency Red Cross housing and medical units were working around the clock to care for the ever increasing number of refugees. An estimated 12,000 persons already have been evacuated from flooded areas, and officials said that the flood waters of Mississippi tributaries and independent streams have risen into more than 30,000 homes.

Black Market Curb By FBI Demanded

WASHINGTON, April 7 (UP)—With a blistering attack on OPA "inefficiency" Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, D. Mont., demanded today that the FBI take over the drive against the "flourishing" food black market.

He said black markets and red point rings were operating so openly and brazenly in major cities like New York and Pittsburgh that there were only two conclusions:

New Jap Premier Has Pessimistic Outlook

Premier Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki Saturday announced a new "battle" cabinet for Japan and, in a foreboding inaugural statement, warned his people that the war situation "warrants not the least bit of optimism whatever for our nation's survival."

"The enemy has now firmly established themselves on our homeland," Suzuki said, referring to the American invasion of Japan's Okinawa prefecture less than 400 miles from Kyushu.

He offered to die in battle, if necessary.

Following his investiture as premier, foreign minister and greater east Asia minister, succeeding the disgraced Kuniaki Koiso, Suzuki revealed himself to be thoroughly pessimistic over Japan's chances of holding off the Pacific Allies.

Outlook Not Pleasant
"The present war, which is fought for the very existence of our empire, has come to the most important crucial stage, which warrants not the least bit of optimism whatever for our nation's survival. If the situation continues like this, the basis of our nation's existence might be threatened," Suzuki said.

The statement was broadcast by Tokyo radio and recorded by United Press, San Francisco.

Army Shakeups Revealed
Along with announcement of a new cabinet, consisting of two other admirals, a general and a group of career civil servants, it was disclosed that the Japanese army administration had been reshuffled.

The reshuffle included creation of a general army command and a general army air command in the Japanese homeland, presumably to strengthen the nation's defense against an anticipated Allied landing.

Marshal Gen. Sugiyama, war minister in the Koiso cabinet, and Marshal Shunroku Hata, former supreme commander of the See PREMIER ... Page 3



FORMS NEW JAP CABINET —Premier Baron Kantaro Suzuki, above, today announced the formation of a new Japanese cabinet and warned his people that there is "not the least bit of optimism" for Japan's survival.

Growing Interest In Aviation Seen By State Aide

LT. COL. Leo G. Devaney, director of aviation in Oregon and wing commander of the civil air patrol, was in La Grande today on official business in connection with the CAP and the state board of aeronautics.

His trip through eastern Oregon includes Ontario, Baker, La Grande and Joseph. He went to Heppner late today for an organization meeting of a CAP unit and to select airport sites.

On the Joseph trip he inspected the municipal airport site as well as a private site at Wallowa lake, both fields being constructed by Contractor Ray Dunsmore, he said.

Col. Devaney said there has been a marked increase in interest and activity in the CAP and that increased interest in this vicinity has been noted.

He explained that while the organization is not at present engaged in active duty, the activities are being directed toward See OREGON ... Page 7

Northwest Will Get No Extra Fuel Oil

WASHINGTON, April 7 (UP)—The office of price administration announced today how consumers can get extra fuel oil rations for heating water this summer.

The additional rations will be issued to eligible persons everywhere except the Pacific northwest. Extra coupons will be issued there only if the regional supply situation improves.

Shipbuilders Seek Guaranteed Wage, Short Work Week

CAMDEN, N. J., April 7 (UP)—The industrial union of marine and shipbuilding workers of America, (CIO), today called for establishment of a guaranteed annual wage and gradual tapering-off of the work week to 35-hours for all shipyard workers.

Union President John Green announced that the proposals, adopted at a quarterly meeting of the general executive board, were designed to take up the slack in employment at shipyards as wartime production is curtailed.

The union proposed that a guaranteed annual wage of \$3,000 be set up immediately for skilled shipyard mechanics on a basis of 50 work weeks and two weeks vacation. Other classifications of employees would be paid in proportion.

"We further propose," the union said, "that this annual wage be paid for a 35-hour week, to be instituted as soon as possible in the war production program, instead of an abrupt, catastrophic shut-down which may result in the permanent impairment of the shipbuilding industry."

Japanese Defeated In Central Burma

CALCUTTA, April 7 (UP)—The Japanese 15th army has been decisively defeated on the central Burma plain and is no longer considered an effective fighting force, the southeast Asia command reported today.

"Our troops have reached the end of the definite phase of operations" in cutting off and liquidating the large force of Japanese between Mandalay and Meiktila, the command said.

Formations of two other Japanese armies in Burma, the 33rd and 28th, have also suffered considerable casualties.

Consolidation of the allied position is under way.

Wallowa County Soldiers Killed

The war department today issued a casualty list containing the names of 1,735 killed, 2,310 wounded and 664 who were taken prisoner in the various war theaters.

The list included the names of two Wallowa county soldiers killed in action in the European theatre, whose list of kin were previously notified. They are:

T. S. Carl M. Hyney, the son of Mrs. Etta J. Hyney, Wallowa.

Pvt. G. L. Makin, the son of Mrs. Muri L. Makin, Enterprise.

Fighter Planes Escort B-29s In Raids On Japan

GUAM, April 7 (UP)—U. S. army fighter planes appeared over the Japanese homeland for the first time today when long-range B-29 Superfortresses from two Japs escorted an estimated 400 Superfortresses in a crushing raid on aircraft factories on the island of Honshu.

The air armada, largest land-based force ever to strike the enemy homeland, rained high explosives on the Nakajima-Mitsubishi factory near Tokyo and the giant Mitsubishi plant at Nagoya. Between them, these factories account for roughly three-fourths of Japanese combat aircraft engine production.

The escorting Mustangs shot down 21 enemy fighters, probably destroyed six more and damaged 10. Two American fighters were lost but one pilot was rescued.

The plants previously had been raided by B-29s from the Marians. Serious damage to them would badly cripple Japanese aircraft production.

Woman Nabbed Here For Baker Theft

BAKER, Ore., April 7 (UP)—A Baker hotel proprietor thought of the old west days when he found a blanket missing and a note promising later payment, signed "Two Gun Jack."

But the pistol-toting monkey belonged to Mrs. Jackie Gantler, 10th Miles City, Montana, hitchhiking to the west coast. She was caught in La Grande and returned to face prosecution in Baker.

Weather
Data for 24 hours ending 7 a. m.
Temperature
Maximum 57
Minimum 39
Precipitation .08
Forecast: Cloudy and unsettled tonight and Sunday.