

Kurile Islands To Russia Was Cleared By Roosevelt At Yalta

By James D. White

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—More than 200 years ago the Russians got into the Kurile Islands—discovered first by a Dutch navigator in 1604—and named them after the Russian word "Kuril," meaning to smoke.

The Kuriles are a 700-mile string of volcanic mountains sticking up out of the sea between the Kamchatka peninsula and northern Japan.

The Russians found them inhabited largely by millions of birds, seals, and the remarkable sea otter whose fur the Russians prized. On the three southern islands already there were a few Japanese fishermen, and the remnants of the Ainu aborigines whom the Japanese had driven out of Japan.

The Russians, and later the Japanese, nearly wiped out the sea otter population through unregulated hunting, and for a long time the Kuriles went unwanted like many other remote Pacific islands.

The Russians freely used the Kurile straits to get past Kamchatka on their way to their Alaska colony, and the Japanese did most of their fishing and bamboo harvesting on the three southern islands nearest to Japan.

But by 1875 the Russians had established themselves also on the island of Sakhalin, which lies inside the Kuriles next to Siberia.

The Japanese did some quick figuring. They swapped Czarist Russia title to Sakhalin in return for undisputed Japanese ownership of the Kuriles. Thus they fenced the Russians firmly into the Japan and Okhotsk seas and gave away only Sakhalin (which they didn't know had oil on it).

Japanese Grab Island

In their war with Russia in 1904 the Japanese grabbed Sakhalin, but the treaty of Portsmouth divided the island equally between the two powers and let Japan keep the Kuriles, where she built naval bases.

After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 the Japanese took the northern (Russian) half of Sakhalin but later were forced to give it back. Japan kept mining concessions, however, to exploit the newly discovered oil, and did not give these up until 1944 when a case of cold feet persuaded her to return them to Russia 26 years ahead of time.

Americans are somewhat disturbed because Secretary of State Byrnes revealed yesterday that at Yalta President Roosevelt agreed that if Russia should come into the Pacific war against Japan she should be given the Kuriles, which control Siberian access to the Pacific.

Actually, Mr. Byrnes revealed much the same thing last September when he announced the United States would support Russia's claim to certain islands north of Japan, and disclosed that the big three had discussed this at Yalta. He said then that the United States was not opposed to the Russian occupation of the Kurile chain and the Japanese half of Sakhalin after Japan's surrender.

SAGINAW NEWS

SAGINAW—C. A. Callantine of Seattle, has purchased the store and home from Mr. Fennell, formerly the S. K. Adams property, and moved his family here recently. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Getty, who have been operating the store will move their stock and the post office into their new store this week. The new store is just a block north of the old store and post office. Mr. Callantine has not announced what he intends to do with the old store building.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bentley and children of Colorado are visiting at the home of Mrs. Bentley's sister, Mrs. Copp.

A son was born last week to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Chapman at a hospital in Eugene.

A card party was given for Velma Zumwalt at her home Thursday afternoon honoring her on her birthday. Minnie Keene received the highest score and Ruby Benson second. Mrs. Zumwalt received several nice gifts, and cake and coffee were served.

Mrs. Bart Johnston returned from Colorado last week where she was called recently by the illness and death of her mother.

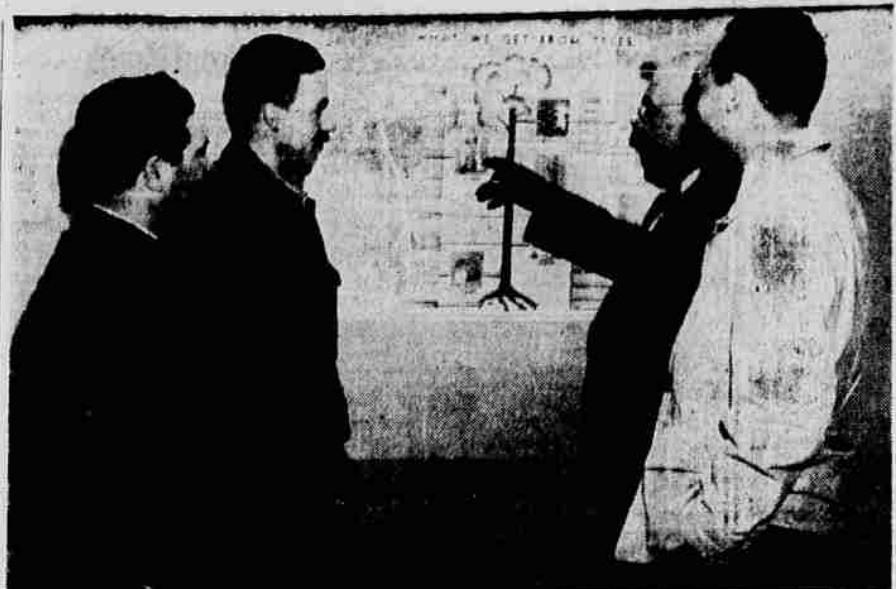
Reta Keene entertained the high school club at her home Tuesday evening of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Grimes and sons of Glenwood and Mr. and Mrs. Vern Hanson and children of Creswell spent Sunday at the Claude Lawson home.

Goldie and Earl Hayes and Cliff Hiner of Cottage Grove were dinner guests at the Lowell Benston home one evening last week.

Goldie O'Neil and her mother, Mrs. Gordon, left for California last week to spend a month or more.

During the ten years preceding World War II, the population of India increased slightly more than 50,000,000 despite a death rate three times that of the United States.



GATHERING FACTS—A three-man delegation from Chile, here this week to study timber usage in Lane county, is shown above examining a chart in the Willamette national forest service offices, which shows many products derived from timber. Left to right those pictured are: Antonio Fernandez, Enrique Valenzuela, Roy A. Elliott, assistant supervisor of the Willamette national forest, and Paul Ducci. (Register-Guard photo, Willshire engraving.)

Atomic Bomb Scientist Foresees Real Test In Undersea Explosion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dr. W. A. Higginbotham, atomic bomb scientist, said today "I do not see much object" in tests planned for this spring and summer to determine the effect of the new explosive on seapower.

The effects of aerial and surface detonation of atomic bombs are already known from the initial test in New Mexico and from the combat use of two bombs in Japan, said Higginbotham, who is chairman of the federation of American scientists.

"Damage to a large fleet spread out is not going to be very impressive, and unless people are warned in advance, the results of the test will sound like a considerable disappointment," he told a reporter. "The effects may be minimized not only by the navy but by everyone else."

Sub-Surface Test

Higginbotham, who was a member of the faculty of Cornell university before becoming engaged in the preparation of the atomic bomb, said the navy wouldn't get a real test of the effect of an atomic bomb on a fleet until a sub-surface detonation planned next year.

(The navy has announced an aerial detonation for May, a surface detonation for July and a sub-surface detonation for sometime in 1947.)

"Such a test," he said, "will produce the only unknown and unmeasured effects."

Without referring to any test in particular, Higginbotham declared:

"It does not seem rational that the navy would run tests that would prove that the fleet was obsolete."

Not Impressive

Asked to elaborate on his prediction that damage to a spread-out fleet would not be "impressive" if the bombs were detonated in the air or at the surface of the water, the scientist said:

"The ground areas affected in Japan by such detonations were roughly only four miles in diameter. In any normal fleet operation such as will be held in the navy's test in a Pacific lagoon measuring 12 by 27 miles in area, the ships will probably be spread out considerably."

"Another thing to remember is that naval vessels are built more strongly mechanically than are buildings, so that over comparable distances, the effect of a bomb on a warship would be less than on a building."

Meanwhile the house naval committee approved legislation barring any disclosure to foreign nations of results obtained from the forthcoming tests.

Rep. Cole of New York, ranking republican member of the house naval committee, protested against a clause in the legislation. This would allow U. S. armed forces chiefs to divulge atomic test data to foreign governments if they felt it was not against the national interest to do so.

However, chairman Vinson (D-Ga.), said he was sure the army and navy realize that congress wants the secrets closely kept.

Nazi Army Minutes Show Hitler Wanted To Seize Vatican City

MUNICH, Germany (AP)—Adolf Hitler wanted to break into the Vatican and take the holy city by force if necessary in an effort to seize secret papal documents when Italy surrendered, minutes of German high command meetings figuring in the war crimes trials of Nazi leaders disclosed.

Hitler's suggestion apparently was made in a fit of rage after the overthrow of Benito Mussolini and Italy's capitulation. The Fuehrer seemed aimed at ripping the veil of secrecy from the Vatican, divesting it of time-honored immunity and learning what had been going on behind Mussolini's back in Italy.

The minutes showed that Field Marshal Gen. Albert Kesselring, German commander in Italy now held as a witness at the trials, suggested at a staff meeting after Italy's surrender that the Nazis seal off the Vatican by posting guards at all gates.

Proposes

Hitler rejected that suggestion and proposed the Germans should break into the Vatican and take what they needed. He made no suggestion regarding Vatican personnel and apparently ignored the problem of what to do with Pope Pius XII.

The minutes failed to disclose what happened to Hitler's suggestion, and there is no evidence that the proposal ever became a part of the German high command's plans.

Members of Chief U. S. Prosecutor Robert H. Jackson's staff also revealed they have been at-

tempting unsuccessfully to check rumors that Hitler at one stage also planned to assassinate the pope.

Another staff member who gathered evidence throughout Germany and Austria said the Nazis had instructed their district leaders to have every Catholic clergyman in village squares as the "first part of the victory day."

Nazi leaders to whom this order was relayed were instructed to burn all documents relating to it immediately upon receipt. It was said, and no written evidence has been found to bring before the court.

SNOW HINDERS DEERHORN LOGGING

DEERHORN—Several inches in the lower parts of the valley, to more than a foot of snow on the hills, have blanketed the ground, interrupting the logging operations this week.

This week the children of the grade school had their March of Dimes on Tuesday and Wednesday. Four fifty-cent cards were filled in the interest of the fight

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War Department Says Army Wives May Join Husbands Soon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wives and other dependents may join soldiers in all overseas areas as soon as adequate living facilities are available, the war department announced.

They may start leaving for Europe sometime after April 1 and for Japan, Korea and the Ryukus after May 1. Applications for transportation must be made by the soldiers overseas. They will be advised when they may apply.

For the present, however, transportation will be authorized only for dependents of officers, the first three grades of enlisted men and certain civilian employees. Under a pre-war law, dependents of soldiers in lower grades must pay their own travel expense. This question now is under study.

Training Period Cut

The war department also announced that the period of training replacements in the United States prior to transfer overseas will be cut from 13 to eight weeks in the ground, air and service forces. The reduction is being made in an effort to meet the critical need for replacements for occupation duty. The training period was cut from 17 to 13 weeks on Jan. 15.

Dependents already had been authorized to travel to Hawaii, the Marianas, Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, Newfoundland, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Panama Canal zone, the islands of the Antilles, and Brazil.

Under the present order, they may go anywhere provided the theater commander decides there is adequate housing, food, and medical care for them. They will travel at government expense if they are dependents of officers or of master, first, technical and staff sergeants or certain civilian em-

ployes. Other dependents must pay their own way.

Priorities Observed

Priorities will be observed in obtaining transportation—but rank will not be a factor. The policy will be to grant:

First priority for military personnel and war department civilian employees who indicate willingness to remain overseas two years. Second priority for those who indicate they are willing to remain at least one year, but less than two.

Relative priority within these two groups will be established on

the basis of cumulative overseas service since Dec. 7, 1941. The department said it will not spend funds to build up overseas for dependents. The new training program begins immediately.

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