

New U. S. Fleet At Okinawa, Nippons Say

Tokyo Hints Battling Yanks Have New Help In Grim Isle Struggle

By William F. Tyree (United Press War Correspondent)
Guam, Friday, May 25 (AP)—The Japanese reported today a fleet of American transports and a "new" carrier task force have arrived off Okinawa to reinforce Tenth Army troops locked in a blazing battle for the fortress city of Shuri.

Powerful American drives southward along the east and west coastlines of the island turned both flanks of the Japanese line and gravely imperiled Naha, the capital city now besieged by marines.

The leathernecks have established a bridgehead inside Naha. Tokyo said without allied confirmation that a total of "more than 400" vessels have been amassed off the west-central coast of Okinawa under protection of a "new" task force built around six aircraft carriers.

Fleet Augmented
The fleet, Tokyo said, has been augmented by 50 transports and U. S. forces "are frantically attempting to land equipment and supplies." American warships are "continuously bombarding" Japanese positions, the enemy report said.

(Several days ago Tokyo reported an American naval force steamed out of the Marianas toward an unknown destination.) The enemy's Naha-to-Yonabaru defense system which has held off American forces 55 days showed signs of crumbling except at Shuri, core of desperate Japanese resistance.

Shuri was threatened with imminent encirclement. Front reports indicated sixth division marines have massed for a full-scale drive into shattered Naha to exploit a bridgehead deep inside the city.

Marines Show Courage
Dispatches said marines of the first division and infantrymen of the 77th and 96th divisions moved forward with war courage in a frontal attack against the interlocking Japanese blockhouses, pillboxes and caves outside Shuri.

The assault troops, supported by artillery, were met with violent blasts of machine gun and rifle fire from entrenched Japanese, who sporadically emerged from their defense positions to counter-attack the Yanks.

Fighting swirled among ancient tombs dotting the Shuri ridges.

Manufacture of Autos Set July 1

Washington, May 24 (AP)—War Production Chief J. A. Krug today authorized the automobile industry to start turning out passenger cars as soon after July 1 as individual manufacturers can get their assembly lines going.

This will enable auto manufacturers to order their production materials immediately, with deliveries of these materials to start after July 1.

"The exact date on which individual auto manufacturers will begin production after July 1 will depend on their particular situations—such as the extent of their tooling up, availability of facilities and materials, et cetera," the WPB chairman said.

His announcement was accompanied by a warning to the public that the office of price administration intends to ration these new cars until essential motorists' needs can be met.

20 Channel Lines Carry Fuel Oil to Continent
London, May 24 (AP)—A series of 20 pipelines under the English channel carried more than 1,000,000 (M) gallons of fuel oil a day to the allied armies in Europe after D-day.

Himmler Commits Suicide



It was announced from London today that Heinrich Himmler, Hitler's hangman, had committed suicide in a British military prison at Luneburg. The Nazi hangman is pictured here making a broadcast, in the days when he was the most dreaded man in Europe.

Heinrich Himmler Kills Himself in British Prison

London, May 24 (AP)—Heinrich Himmler, number one Nazi war criminal, killed himself in a British military prison at Luneburg last night, boasting that he was the dreaded hangman hunted for more than two weeks by three allied armies.

Captured last Monday by two British Tommies guarding a bridge at Bremervoerde, the former Gestapo chief at first tried to conceal his identity. His familiar toothbrush mustache had been shaved off, a black patch covered one eye and his rimless spectacles had been replaced by thick horn-rimmed glasses.

Brought before high-ranking allied intelligence officers a few hours later, however, Himmler threw off the mask. Identifies Self
"I am Heinrich Himmler," he announced dramatically.

Himmler was placed in a temporary detention cell at British headquarters in Luneburg to await further questioning. First accounts from Luneburg, subsequently confirmed by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Paris headquarters, said the Gestapo chief concealed a phial of cyanide of potassium in his mouth throughout the questioning and a routine search by his captors.

Late last night he was taken before British army doctors for a routine medical examination and it was then that he swallowed the poison, apparently fearful it would be discovered and taken from him.

Takes Poison
A medical officer forced him to open his mouth, however, and the trapped hangman was said to have bitten off the neck of the vial. He died within 15 minutes.

When he was arrested, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Second Army headquarters said, Himmler was wearing pearl-colored horn-rimmed glasses and had shaved off his mustache in an attempt to escape detection.

"His body is now lying on the floor in the front parlor of a villa in Luneburg," the dispatch said. "His mustache is again showing thinly in the cruel, thin upper lip."

HIGH TOTAL REACHED
Portland, Ore., May 24 (AP)—Oregon war bond sales yesterday in the seventh war loan were the second highest daily figure of the drive, with a total of \$2,054,932, including \$979,331 "E's."

Truman Seeks Authority to Make Changes In Executive Branch of U. S. Government

Washington, May 24 (AP)—President Truman, moving vigorously to remake the administration he inherited on April 12, asked congress today for permanent authority to make the executive branch "more business-like and efficient."

He asked for legislation so flexible that it would permit the chief executive to undertake "any form of organizational adjustment, large or small, for which necessity may arise."

Tokyo's Industrial Waterfront In Flames Following Fort Raid

Official Says Bend Assured Airport Help

Construction Certain With Federal Aid, CAA Supervisor Tells Meet

When federal funds are available, the government will build a suitable airport in Bend, and it may be the first or second one in the state to be constructed.

This assertion was made at a public hearing on post-war aviation held in the Pilot Butte inn yesterday afternoon, by Lane W. Wilcox, airport supervisor for the seventh district, civil aeronautics administration. The hearing was conducted by the Oregon State board of aeronautics, which is on a fact-finding tour of the state. More than 50 officials and air-minded persons from all over the midstate attended.

After explaining that the CAA merely carries out orders of the civil aeronautics board, Wilcox added that a major airport might be built in Bend if the CAB designated this city as a port of call for airliners.

Bend Stands High
Wilcox said that the government's airport building program is undergoing its sixth revision, and that "Bend stands high on the list."

"We will build an airport here without a doubt if you get federal aid," Wilcox said. "We feel that Bend has a very definite need for a first class airport, and we feel that this should be a carrier stop. This depends, however, on the granting of a franchise to an airline by the CAB. If this does not happen we will assist you when the funds are available."

The speaker then reported that hearings have been completed by the senate on bills which would provide money for airport construction and that the house is now holding hearings.

"I am almost certain that these measures will be passed by congress, and I'll bet you \$10 to \$1 that you will get your airport," Wilcox said.

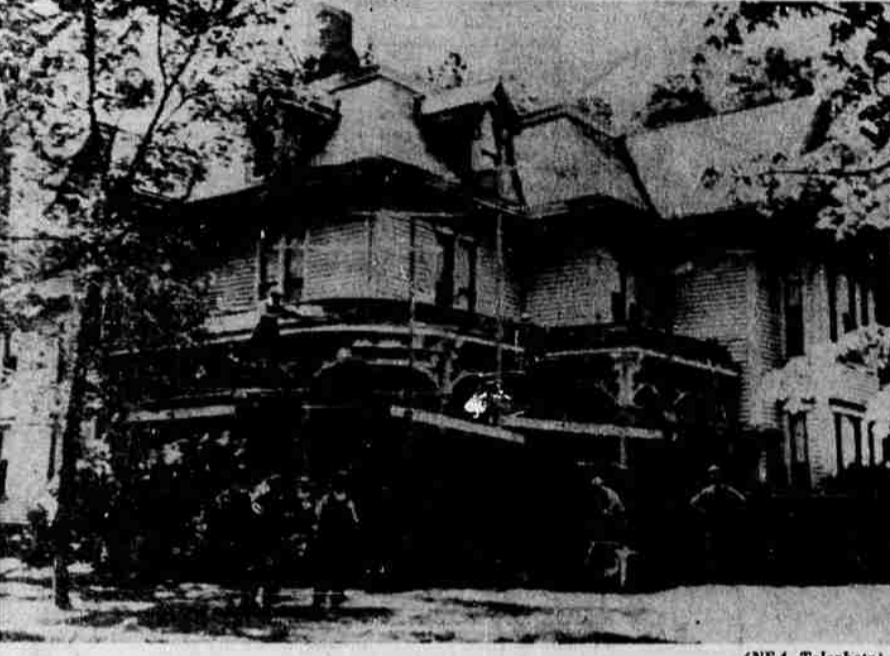
Visitors Welcome
The hearing opened after Mayor A. T. Niebergall formally welcomed the persons present, and he thanked the state aeronautics board for holding the session here.

State and federal officials present were Lee Eyerly, chairman of Salem; E. S. Maroney, treasurer; Portland; J. R. Roberts, Redmond; and Dr. W. M. Pearce of La Grande, members of the state aeronautics board. Another member, A. W. Whittaker of Portland, was unable to attend. Besides Supervisor Wilcox, Emil Williams, chief of inspection service, and Jack Reavey, airport engineer, for the CAA, all of Seattle, were present.

Wilcox told the gathering that the proposed airport building program calls for an additional 3,000 airports in the nation, or double the present number. Of these, he predicted, at least 95 per cent would be in the form of landing strips built closer to commercial centers and recreation areas. He advised Bend to prepare for expansion of its present municipal airport, and also to build, if possible, a new airport.

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Summer White House in Missouri



Roofers, painters and decorators swarm over the summer White House in Independence, Mo., as the Harry S. Truman home at 219 N. Delaware St., where the President plans to spend some of the summer months.

U. S. Troopers Near Junction That Would Split Mindanao

Nippons Make No Serious Attempt to Halt Closing Pincers; Position Seems Hopeless

Manila, May 24 (AP)—Converging American troops in north central Mindanao swept almost unopposed today into the last eight miles separating them from a junction that would split the island lengthwise.

Troops of the 31st division, striking north, brushed aside resistance at Kalasungay, a mile and a half north of recently captured Malaybalay, in a 10-mile advance to capture Dalgangan.

Spearheads of the 40th and American divisions pushed south several miles beyond Maluko toward the junction with the 31st.

The Japanese made no serious effort to halt the closing pincers. Apparently realizing the hopelessness of their position, the defenders were reported retiring to the hills for a last stand.

"If the central Mindanao gap is closed, the Japs will have lost everything worth holding in that area," a spokesman at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters said.

Near Airfield
In the Davao sector, 24 division troops pushed a mile north of Burawan to secure Tambungan and were reported closing in on Licanan airfield, last Japanese-held airdrome on Mindanao.

On Luzon, the 38th division began burning out the Japanese in the Marakina watershed hills east of Manila, using flame-throwing tanks and a catapult device which hurled barrels of jelled gasoline over hills and ridges into draws and ravines where the Japanese were entrenched.

To the north of the 38th, the 43rd division compressed trapped Japanese near Ipo dam into a three-square-mile pocket.

STALIN'S SON SAFE
Zurich, May 24 (AP)—Marshal Josef Stalin's son, Jacob, who was captured early in the war, was disclosed today to be living in a Swiss internment camp with other Russian officers following his escape from a German prison camp.

Bill Eby, Bataan Soldier, Is Dead
Bill Eby, T/5, one of the four former Bend high school boys who were captured by the Japanese following the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, died on June 28, 1942, in a prisoner of war camp. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Eby, formerly of Bend and now in Portland, have been notified by the war department.

Carrier Planes Renew Blows On Jap Bases

In Guam, Fliers Survey Damage Resulting From Great Raid on Capital

By Lloyd Tipling (United Press War Correspondent)
Guam, May 24 (AP)—Some 180 American carrier planes attacked suicide-plane bases in southern Japan today, an enemy broadcast said, while miles of Tokyo's industrial waterfront still blazed from a record pre-dawn Superfortress raid.

Radio Tokyo said the carrier planes began their attacks on bases on Kyushu, southernmost of the Japanese home islands, at 3 p. m. Japanese time. They caused "relatively light" damage, Tokyo said.

Carrier planes and Superfortresses have struck repeatedly in the past month at the Kyushu airfields from which suicide planes take off to attack American shipping off Okinawa.

Fires Kindled
More than 550 Superfortresses kindled fires in southern Tokyo visible 200 miles away early today. Approximately 4,500 tons of fire bombs were dropped in the greatest incendiary attack ever made.

A 200-mile-long sky train of B-29's, the biggest force of Superfortresses ever sent aloft, dropped 700,000 fire bombs on the jam-packed Shinagawa factory area at the rate of 42 tons a minute for 105 minutes in the pre-dawn darkness.

Flames quickly engulfed the structures and merged into huge conflagrations. Either consumed by or in the path of the billowing fires were railway yards, aircraft plants and other key war factories.

"It looks like a good job," said Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Powers, commander of Guam-based Superfortresses.

Big Area Burned
The raid was expected to add materially to the almost 33 of Tokyo's 360 square miles burned out by Superfortresses since they began their offensive against the capital six months ago today.

A Japanese communique said some fires still were burning at 7 a. m. Japanese time, more than five and one-half hours after the start of the raid.

It said an arbor in the imperial palace garden was attacked and an "establishment" within the grounds of the Akasaka detached palace, used to house visiting royalty, had been destroyed.

Other Tokyo broadcasts said the Singaku temple of the Ronins, "symbol of Japanese chivalry," was destroyed. Some bombs fell in Yokohama and Kawasaki as well as in Tokyo, the broadcasts said.

Japs Make Claim
The Japanese claimed 27 Superfortresses had been shot down and 30 others damaged.

The Japanese were believed to have sent jet-propelled night fighters against the raiders, but authorities said losses had been unexpectedly light. Returning fliers said "balls of fire," presumably jet fighters, chased them as much as 20 miles out to sea.

Truman to Fly West to Speak Before San Francisco Parley
Washington, May 24 (AP)—White House press secretary Charles G. Ross announced today that President Truman will fly to the west coast for his appearance at the final plenary session of the United Nations conference at San Francisco.

Ross said that even if the trip to the northwest is arranged definitely, the entire trip will keep the president away from Washington much less than a week.

On his flight to the west coast, Truman will be accompanied by Ross and Matthew J. Connelly, secretary to the president. No member of the Truman family will make the trip.

The president is considering the brief visit to the northwest for purposes of a rest "and nothing else," Ross said.

He gave no indication when the side trip might be announced in Washington state except to say that reporters should look for it at Olympia.