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American Forces Land in Solomon Islands

Japan's Biggest Liners Sunk by Allied Subs

4 Maru Ships, Converted Into Carriers and Troop Transports Destroyed

(Copyright by United Press)

Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—Circumstantial evidence available to Americans enroute home from internment in Japanese territory indicated today that the Japanese liners Yasakuni Maru and Iwata Maru, both converted into aircraft carriers, and the troop-laden Nitta Maru were among the first big vessels sunk by allied submarines in the Pacific war.

The three liners were in addition to the sinking of a fourth big Japanese ship, the 14,457-ton Taiyo Maru, which went down in flames off Hong Kong with loss of hundreds of enemy technical experts after an attack by an American submarine.

Taiyo Maru Blew Up

Japanese sources reported that that Taiyo Maru blew up and was swept by fire from stem to stern after the torpedo hit exploded a boiler.

The Yasakuni Maru was of 11,933 tons, a ship of the great Mitsubishi company, built at Tokyo in 1930. The Nitta Maru was of 16,500 tons and was built at Tokyo in 1939 by the same Japanese concern.

Both vessels, as well as the Iwata Maru, were reported sunk by American and Dutch submarines.

It was not positively established that the Iwata and Yasakuni had been converted into aircraft carriers but the best available information indicated that they had. Each carried thousands of persons in addition to vast equipment for the Japanese armies conducting offensives southward at that time. The vessels were among the newest and finest of the Japanese merchant marine.

Hara Kiri by Captain

It also was reported reliably that the captain of the Magasatti Maru committed hara kiri late in May after his ship struck a Japanese mine in Japanese waters. A week earlier the emperor had decorated the captain for capturing the U. S. liner President Harrison in Shanghai on the first day of the war.

The Taiyo Maru sinking caused the Japanese to change their plans in connection with sending technical experts to the southern conquered areas. These experts now sail southward in small groups on a number of ships rather than in large units. This was said to have resulted in delaying the organization of plans to exploit occupied areas.

Japs Get Large Stocks

Eye-witnesses reported, however, that the Japanese were making the greatest effort in organizing the southern areas. These reports said the Japanese advance in some areas, such as Malaya, had been more rapid than expected and that the British were not always able to carry out a scorched earth policy.

Large stocks fell into Japanese hands at some points, it was reported.

Vice-Admiral Robert L. Ghormley, commander of American forces in the Solomon Island battle.

Ghormley Leads Naval Forces

Washington, Aug. 10 (AP)—Admiral Robert Lee Ghormley, 58, is commander of United States naval forces in the south Pacific. He is one of the navy's better known officers and has been in his present job with headquarters in New Zealand since last spring.

Before that Ghormley was special observer for the navy in London, a position to which he was assigned after completing a tour of duty as director of the vital war plans office of the office of chief of naval operations here.

A regular naval officer who graduated from Annapolis in 1906, Ghormley had active service at sea during World War I, his principal duty being flag lieutenant of commander of battleship force one.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, 57, is commander in chief of the United States Pacific fleet and as such is responsible for naval operations extending from the Bering sea into the southernmost reaches of the Pacific. Nimitz' most recent previous operation was the battle of Midway where he was in general control of the task forces which engaged the Japanese assault fleet.

Fatal Flash Floods Cause Million Loss

Philadelphia, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—The death toll in flash floods in Bucks, Montgomery, Lancaster and Chester counties stood today at two, and the property damage was estimated at more than $1,000,000.

Heavy rains Saturday and early yesterday morning sent walls of water down choked creek beds, flooded homes and industrial plants, upset transportation schedules, and seriously damaged hundreds of acres of farm land. More than 200 families were evacuated from their homes between Collegeville and Perkiomen.

Fatal Rioting In India as Strike Spreads

Campaign of Mass Civil Disobedience Gains Momentum—Leaders Jailed

By Preston Grover

Bombay, Aug. 10 (AP)—Soldiers and police, fighting to control widespread rioting on the second day of Mohandas K. Gandhi's campaign to end the British rule in India, having fired upon crowds in Bombay ten times yesterday and today as strikes and disturbances spread throughout the country.

Bloodshed ushered in Gandhi's "non violent" civil disobedience campaign yesterday when the police were forced to fire six times.

8 Killed, 159 Wounded

A Bombay government communique tonight said casualties on Sunday totaled eight killed and 159 wounded, but said it had no tally of today's casualties in clashes in which demonstrators stoned trains and automobiles and burned government grain shops. Strikes closed some factories and schools.

Twenty-three were sent to the hospital with bullet wounds suffered when police fired twice into groups in the Dadar district of Bombay, in Poona police fired on a crowd, mostly of students, near Parsurambhau college, and 14 were removed to a hospital. Schools and colleges were closed. Goondas, the Hindu name for hoodlums, threw bottles through windows.

Work Stoppages

At Lucknow, police fired also on a crowd of striking university students who were trying to form a parade. Thirteen were arrested.

The work stoppages in some Bombay mills were in response to Mohandas K. Gandhi's "do or die" call for a "complete deadlock" by strikes and all other non-violent means.

As the campaign entered its second day amid shootings, showers of bottles and shouts of demonstrators, there were portents of even greater trouble ahead.

Hindus Attack Moslems

Bands of Hindus stoned some Moslem shops in the "trouble area" of south central Bombay. Police have the greatest fear of repetition of the communal Moslem-Hindu riots which have followed previous civil disobedience campaigns. These riots often were the bloodiest and the most difficult to suppress.

Throughout the city troops were stationed in groups ranging from a dozen soldiers to a full platoon.

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Saboteurs' Bodies Leave Death House—Armed soldiers prassed spectators back as two ambulances bearing the bodies of six nazi saboteurs rolled out of the District of Columbia jail after they had been executed. They had been found guilty and sentenced to death by a military court. Two other saboteurs escaped the death penalty by turning state's evidence. (Associated Press Photo.)

Victory House Days Scheduled

To have charge of arrangements for the two big "Victory House" days slated for the Victory center at the courthouse lawn next Friday and Saturday, Fred S. Lamport, chairman of the Marion county war bond committee today named the executive committee which will put over the extensive plans under way.

Floyd Miller was named chairman at a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce this morning with W. L. Phillips, E. J. Sellars, Bereley Newman, Francis Smith and Bruce Cooper as assisting members.

At a dinner meeting held later at the Marion today detailed plans were being worked out and individual sub-committees being assigned.

The big show will revolve around a unit being sent through the country by the Standard Oil company including the Standard Chevronettes, a group of pretty girls, who will have charge of bond and stamp sales put on in connection with the show. It is stated this unit is making 17 stops only in the state and Salem is one of four having a two-day stop.

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Sky Dragons Bomb Haiphong

Chungking, Aug. 10 (AP)—American Sky Dragons caught the Japanese base at Haiphong in puppetized French Indo-China by complete surprise Sunday and in a concentrated bombing scored a direct hit on a 4,000-ton steamer and started a large oil fire on the docks, Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell said in a communique today.

"All bombs landed in the target area," communique No. 33 said. "After the bombers released their bombs, escorting pursuit planes bombed and machine gunned the dock area. The complete lack of hostile opposition indicates the enemy was taken at complete surprise."

No United States losses were suffered.

It was the first raid on Haiphong by raiders based in China. Haiphong has been sued by the Japanese as a port of entry into the French colony since September, 1940, when Vichy made its first accord with Tokyo. It is located in the north, on the gulf of Tonkin.

More U.S. Troops Arrive in Britain

At a British Port, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—A very large contingent of United States troops arrived at this port today and left immediately for training camps somewhere in rural Britain.

Superbly equipped and tough looking, the Americans were in high spirits and swung from the docks immediately to special trains.

Hour after hour tenders plied back and forth between the American troops transports and the dock as the troops were brought ashore.

As they landed, a Scots army band greeted them with rousing Sousa marches, striking up as the first man dropped his duffle bag on the dock.

Benghazi Shipping Bombed by Allies

Cairo, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—United States army air corps and British heavy bombing planes have made a successful daylight attack on shipping at Benghazi, the chief axis base in Libya, and scored a direct hit on one ship and near misses, calculated to do serious damage, on others.

To Prosecute Saboteur Aides

Washington, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—The justice department plans to seek indictment of the 14 alleged confederates of the eight nazi saboteurs on charges of treason and knowledge of treason, it was learned from an authoritative source today.

These charges were discussed at a conference of Attorney General Francis Biddle and members of his staff. No official word was forthcoming, but it was learned that treason charges had been agreed upon.

Death can be the penalty for treason, although the trial judge, at his discretion, may impose sentences of not less than five years in prison and not less than $10,000 fine.

Persons convicted of guilty knowledge of treason — misprision of treason is the legal term —are subject to not more than seven years imprisonment and fines of not more than $1,000.

Meantime, saboteurs George John Dasch and Ernest Peter Burger, who talked and escaped the fate of their six comrades in the electric chair, remained in the district jail. They are subject to the will of the justice department which may hold them available as possible witnesses against the confederates.

Ralph Burnside, Lumberman, Dies

Portland, Ore., Aug. 10 (U.P.)—Ralph Burnside, 72, prominent northwest lumberman, died Saturday.

Burnside was an official of the Willapa lumber holdings at Raymond, Wash., although he retired from active work in 1940.

Japan Claims Great Victories

(By the United Press)

Japan moved with suspicious alacrity today to get its side of the battle of the Solomon Islands and the United States navy attack on the Aleutians before the world ahead of any embarrassing announcements from other quarters.

In the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, in which Japanese forces were crushingly defeated, Japan claimed the practical destruction of the United States fleet, which suffered only comparatively minor losses.

This time it asserted, in imperial headquarters communiques, that a United States battleship, at least five American cruisers, two Australian cruisers, four destroyers, and 10 transports had been sunk, three United States cruisers, "more than two" destroyers and at least one transport damaged and 41 planes downed.

It admitted only two Japanese cruisers slightly damaged and seven planes lost.

Regarding the Aleutians attack, it said that Japanese forces had beaten off an attack by strong naval forces.

Italy enthusiastically went beyond Japanese claims and had two battleships sunk in the Solomons for a time, but changed its mind.

Enlistment Policy Changed by Navy

Portland, Aug. 10 (AP)—The navy has changed its policy to permit enlistment of men up to the time they are sworn in under selective service, Lieut. Cmdr. G. F. DeGrave, Portland district recruiting officer, said Saturday.

DeGrave said that previously men who had received notice to report for army induction could not be accepted by the navy unless released by draft boards.

Red Defenses Said Cracking In Caucasus

Russians Said Carrying Out Scorched Earth Policy by Blasting Wells

By Eddy Gilmore

Moscow, Aug. 10 (AP)—Driven back by relentless, hard thrusts of German motorized troops and Alpinists, red army defenses before the oil fields of Maikop and in spurs of the Caucasian foothills appeared to be cracking today.

Front line dispatches telling of tremendous explosions roaring over a broad area seemed to indicate the Russians were carrying out with ruthless abandon the scorched earth policy in the first oil regions the Germans have been able to penetrate in their Caucasian thrust.

In large-scale tank battles in Kotelnikovski area of the Don elbow, southwest of Stalingrad, the soviet machines appeared to be as strong as the Germans, and the red army was counterattacking with some success.

Russians Gain in North

Five hundred miles north of the Caucasus, in the Voronezh flank, the Russians were making further headway, expanding their bridgeheads on the west bank of the Don, taking several populated places in violent fighting, and repulsing German counterattacks between the Don and Voronezh.

The Germans were bringing up reserves and still maintaining communications with their groups before the city, however.

In the oil-bearing Maikop-Krasnodar area of the northwest Caucasus, said today's communique, the Germans were "striving hard to advance," and dispatches from the front said great shrouds of dust and smoke were draped over a broad landscape already baked by a broiling summer sun.

Oil Wells Blasted

Pravda said roaring blasts seared a wide area, and it was reasonable, observers here said, to believe that the Russians would destroy the oil installations before the Germans reach them. The Maikop fields produced about 7 per cent of Russia's petroleum.

As the battle spread southward dispatches told of burning wheat fields, too, indicating that in some sectors the Russians had not been able to harvest the grain before the approach of the enemy, as they were able to do farther north.

There was no report here indicating whether the Russians who had been battling along the Black Sea of Azov coasts had been cut off by the German advance south of Kuschevka. But it was possible most of them were giving battle along the Kuban.

Initial Surprise Attack Succeeds Against Japs

U.S. Cruiser Sunk, 2 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers And Transport Damaged

Washington, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—Admiral Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the U.S. fleet announced today that American forces have succeeded in effecting landings on the Solomon Islands. The enemy has counter-attacked with "rapidity and vigor."

He reported that at least one of our cruisers was sunk.

Two U.S. cruisers, two destroyers, and a transport were damaged in the operation in which allied forces are trying to recapture islands in the Tulagi area of the southerly Solomon Islands.

Japanese Losses

He said information as to the extent of damage inflicted on the enemy was incomplete at this time, but that a large number of Japanese planes have been destroyed and surface units put out of action.

King said that an initial surprise attack was effected and that "planned landings" were accomplished.

The text of King's statement:

"(1) Offensive operations by U.S. naval and other forces, looking to the occupation of islands in the Tulagi area in the southeasterly Solomon Islands, have now been underway for about three days.

MacArthur Assists

"(2) The operations are under the immediate command of Vice-Admiral Ghormley and under the general control of Admiral Nimitz. Certain of the forces under Gen. MacArthur are cooperating.

"(3) The objective of the current operations is to expel the Japanese from the Tulagi area and to make use of that area for our own purposes. The enemy have been in process of consolidating their positions, in which their purpose has been not only to deny them to us but to use them as a base of offensive operations against our positions which cover the line of communications to Australia and New Zealand.

Surprise Effected

"(4) An initial surprise was effected and planned landings accomplished. The enemy has counterattacked with rapidity and vigor. Heavy fighting is

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MacArthur's Bombers Busy

By Don Caswell

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Australia, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—Allied planes maintained a 24-hour day offensive over the entire northeastern invasion zone today in support of the United States and allied forces attacking the Japanese-held Solomon Islands.

From darting fighter planes to the great long range bombers, they ranged over New Guinea, the Bismarck and Solomons while sweating ground crews remained at action stations to refuel them and send them off again for a battle which Australians believed might mark the turning point in the Pacific war.

It was authoritatively revealed that for one month the allied high command, in co-operation with the Australian cabinet and war advisory council, including leaders of opposition political parties, had been secretly planning the allied attack which was opened on the Solomons Friday.

General Douglas MacArthur's air force was able to play its full part it was said authoratively, despite the fact that he and Australians had consented to a diversion of vitally needed new fighter planes to other and even more urgent theatres of the war.

Cottage Grove Fire Fatal to Resident

Cottage Grove, Aug. 10 (AP)—Cottage Grove's epidemic of suspicious fires reached serious proportions today when Stewart William King, 23, Cottage Grove, died at a Eugene hospital as the result of burns suffered early this morning in a motor cabin blaze, which the caretaker, J. D. Smith, said he was convinced was "deliberately set."

The blaze was the fourth suspicious fire in the Cottage Grove area in the last three weeks.

King, a resident of one of the three cabins destroyed with a loss of $4,000, was severely burned above the waist, and died this morning in Eugene after being taken to a hospital there.

Smith, who operated the Moro lodge for his son-in-law, Elmer Linn, Portland, told how the flames spread so rapidly that occupants were hard-pressed to escape. Two families were in the other building which burned but they managed to escape without injury.

The epidemic of fires left Cottage Grove residents and mill owners in a jittery mood. W. A. Woodard, who has suffered the loss of his $75,000 home and a $40,000 dry kiln at his mill in two fires which have been termed by State Police Superintendent Charles Pray as probably the work of a dangerous pyromaniac redoubled the guards on his remaining mill property. He said they had been issued rifles and sawed off shotguns.

J. H. Chamber, who last week saw his $300,000 mill burn to the ground in a fire which police have definitely linked with the Woodard blazes, was at a loss to name any former employe of his who might bear a grudge. The blaze which destroyed his plant has also been characterized as definitely incendiary.

Other mill owners in Springfield and Eugene doubled guards and took every precaution to prevent further outbreaks.

Gestapo Killed In Poland

London, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—Lieutenant Colonel Richard Gassler, who was the German SS (Elite) troop chief of police in the Krakow district of Poland, was killed July 30 when his automobile was wrecked by patriots, a spokesman for the Polish government in exile said today.

Gassler was a notorious gestapo killer known "for his cruelty and ruthlessness," the spokesman said. In Poland his principal task was protecting the German government officials. He was the chief bodyguard of the German governor of Poland.

Osnabruck Target Of British Bombers

London, Aug. 10 (U.P.)—British long range bombers, resuming a powerful offensive against war-industrial western Germany, made a concentrated attack during the night on the great railroad and factory center of Osnabruck.

Well-informed statements that only a minute percentage of the planes engaged were lost, and official admission that six of the great bombers were missing, indicated that the raiding force had run well into the hundreds.

Germany admitted that "several" fires had been started, as usual in "residential quarters."

While the British planes were attacking Osnabruck, on the main Ruhr - Bremen - Hamburg railroad and one of the two chief communications centers of all western Germany, smaller forces bombed other towns in northwestern Germany and lighter craft, on intruder operations, struck at airfields in Holland and Belgium to keep night fighters down.

Fighter command planes bombed docks at Le Havre on the occupied French coast.

Western Germany had been bombed four times last week and in resuming the attack today, aviation quarters said, the Royal Air Force was continuing a carefully charted plan to concentrate on railroad and industrial centers.

It was the 40th raid of the war on Osnabruck and the first since June 19.

Three of a small force of enemy planes which raided the midlands and other British areas during the night were destroyed by night fighter planes and gun fire.