



Water Over Venice—A porter carries a pedestrian across St. Mark's Square, Venice, after a high tide overran the banks of the Grand Canal and flowed into the Square.

Okinawa Slated to Be U. S. Base in Far East

By EARNEST HOBRECHT

Okinawa (AP)—The U. S. Air Force apparently has won out over the U. S. Navy in the behind-the-scenes argument over what will be America's big base in the Far East.

Everything indicates that Okinawa, the choice of the airmen, has been picked. The Navy wanted Guam. For their own purposes, the Air Force generals liked Okinawa. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme commander for the Allied powers in Japan, leaned to the side of the Air Force. In addition to running Japan for the Allies, Gen. MacArthur also is U. S. Far East commander.

There still are no indications that the Navy will move its operations from Guam to Okinawa, but the Air Force seems to be concentrating now on this island south of Japan, which is about 87 miles long and averages three to 10 miles in width.

The U. S. 20th Air Force has been moved from Guam to Okinawa and the commanding general of this hard-hitting outfit says the building program here on Okinawa is more extensive than that on Guam.

This is a very recent development. Only in recent weeks has the decision been made in Washington to build permanent structures in place of the temporary, sub-standard things that have been used since the end of the war.

There are two Air Force bases on Okinawa. One is Kadena and the other is Naha. Both are being modernized and improved.

Maj. Gen. Alvin C. Kincaid, 20th Air Force commanding general, said \$24,000,000 has been authorized in the past few weeks for permanent buildings at Kadena.

It is expected that more money for Naha will be coming soon.

The \$24,000,000 is not all that the general wants and is not all that he says he needs. "But," he declared, "it will make us operational."

Top American experts are arriving from Washington and Tokyo to push the project. When the Americans planned their final assault on Japan, the blueprints called for 26 air fields on Okinawa.

Some of America's newest and fastest jet planes are stationed here, as well as many B-29's. From Okinawa they can fan out over a considerable area, if they are ordered to do so. Planes from here can cast their shadows on the Philippines, Japan, Formosa and China.

Gen. MacArthur has hinted a time or two that this may be the place where the Americans will go when they move out of Japan after a peace treaty is signed. America's air arm could reach out over Japan with ease from bases here.

But perhaps of more importance than that is the role that the Air Force people see Okinawa playing in U. S. Far East defense set-up. They see Okinawa as a vital link in the defense chain which stretches from Alaska down through Japan and Okinawa to the Philippines.

Beyond a doubt, greater importance is being attached to developments on the mainland of Asia. U. S. airmen frankly don't like the idea of nearby Formosa being in unfriendly hands. At the same time, they seem to feel that it is sure to fall to the Chinese communists.

Aside from what the U. S. Air Force is doing on Okinawa, the Army is busy, too. The Army already has \$58,000,000 allocated for its projects and it hopes to get more soon.

For awhile after the war, it looked as though Okinawa was going to be just another forgotten World War II battlefield. Today the scene is changing rapidly. A glance at the jet planes overhead give one an idea of how fast it really is changing.

Benefit Arranged For Missouri School

Marquam—To insure the Beaver Lake school in the Missouri Ridge district adequate heating equipment for the comfort of the teacher and pupils, the Marquam community cooperated with the Beaver Lake community club and the Farmer's Union at the Marquam community hall, in a program and auction sale.

Official hosts for the evening's entertainment and supper were Paul Strait, president of the Beaver Lake community club, Harold Burrough, president of the Farmer's Union and the entire Marquam community.

Bob Main of Scotts Mills, assisted by Frank Powell of Silverton, auctioned articles donated by business folk of Silverton and Mt. Angel, realizing more than \$300 for the heating project of the school.

Rogue River Forest Chief

Portland, Dec. 14 (AP)—Regional Forester H. J. Andrews today announced appointment of a new head for the Rogue River national forest. He said Laurence G. Jolley, assistant supervisor of the Mt. Hood national forest, would become supervisor of the Rogue River forest Dec. 31 with headquarters at Medford. He will succeed Karl L. Janouch, who will retire.

Crops Damaged In California

Los Angeles, Dec. 14 (AP)—Extensive loss to truck crops was reported today but a warming sun promised a break in a two-day cold snap.

In the Imperial valley, farmers feared the midwinter pea crop was an almost total loss from temperatures as low as 24 degrees, with heavy damage to tomatoes, squash and possibly to some citrus.

Last year's midwinter crop from the valley totaled 4,183 carloads, valued at \$7,514,648. Agricultural Commissioner B. A. Harrigan said several days of surveying will be required to definitely set the loss.

Otherwise, temperatures over southern California today ran two and more degrees above yesterday, but it was still cold enough to freeze a few car radiators, coat puddles with ice and bring out mittens and mufflers.

Citrus growers said fruit which escaped loss from temperatures as low as 21 degrees in some orange belt areas early yesterday would miss further loss today. Los Angeles' minimum was 37 degrees for the second successive day.

The weather bureau said tonight will be much warmer.

Frost Spoils Spuds

Portland, Dec. 14 (AP)—Frost cost central Oregon growers an estimated 250 cars of potatoes. Ben Davis, state potato commission administrator, said this number would be dumped. The potatoes passed inspection at country shipping points, but failed to hold up in warmer climates, he explained.

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Hoover Offers Program for Saving \$2 Billion a Year

Washington, Dec. 14 (AP)—A campaign for government reform today boiled down to an eight-point program drawn up by Herbert Hoover. He forecast that it would save the taxpayers \$2,000,000,000 a year.

The former president, addressing the national reorganization conference Monday night, predicted that this fiscal year's \$5,500,000,000 excursion into red ink may be exceeded in the following year.

"We may be turning two Frankensteins loose in the land," Hoover said. "Their terrifying names are 'Higher Taxes' and 'Inflation.'"

The estimate of a \$5,500,000,000 deficit for this fiscal year, ending next June 30, is President Truman's.

Hoover, who headed the official, 12-man reorganization commission which handed congress 318 reorganization proposals last spring, advised the committee to focus its efforts on winning passage of only the "most urgent" items at the coming session of congress.

Whereas economists agree that "taxation beyond 25 per cent of our national income will bring disaster," Hoover said, actual and prospective expenditures of federal and local governments promise to eat up "much more than 30 percent."

He offered this list of objectives in approximate order of urgency:

1. Reorganizing the civil service where, he said, "at present Red Tape himself dwells."
2. Reorganizing the budget and accounting machinery in which "the ghost of Alexander Hamilton still wanders."
3. Setting up the post office as a modern business and removing it from politics by modernizing 160 years' accumulation of "conflicting laws."
4. Unifying the federal hospital service which, when investigated, had patients for only 155,000 of its 225,000 beds but was about to provide 50,000 more beds at a cost of \$1,300,000,000.
5. Merging the water conservation services—"They overlap; they have duplicate offices . . . A porkbarrel floats in those rivers."
6. Consolidating the administration of grazing and forest lands in the agriculture department, instead of letting agriculture and interior maintain competing services and staffs.
7. Providing one central transportation agency to eliminate "overlap and waste" and to steer national policy in this field, vital to national defense.
8. Relieving the president of the burden of direct responsibility over 65 different agencies, and ironing out conflicting authorities between bureaus.

Daughter of Magnate Wounded by Police

Darien, Conn., Dec. 14 (AP)—Dionysia Skouras, 23, daughter of a multi-millionaire motion picture executive, was wounded by police Tuesday during an 80-mile-an-hour chase through three communities along the Boston Post road.

Miss Skouras, daughter of Spyros P. Skouras, president of the 20th Century-Fox Film Corp., was hit by one of three bullets fired by police who wanted her for speeding. The bullet hit her in the left hand.

That the Benton-Lincoln Electric cooperative plans to service the area above the Detroit dam with power from that dam is revealed in a letter to the county court from the cooperative asking for an easement for poles over certain county land. The cooperative says this will be part of a poll line carrying the power from the new dam to the corps of army engineers' permanent housing area, also to Camp Mongold, to the new forestry headquarters to be built on the new highway, as well as to the towns of Detroit, Idanha and any new customers that might exist along the new highway. The cooperative has its headquarters at Corvallis.

Plan to Use Power From Detroit Dam

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U. S., Britain, and Canada Outline Atom Partnership

Washington, Dec. 14 (AP)—The United States, Britain and Canada have virtually completed the broad outlines for a new partnership in the development of atomic energy and atomic bombs.

The next move will be for the state department to take up the proposals with congressional leaders. The proposed plan—which will apparently come to nothing unless congress is prepared in some way to authorize it—reportedly would provide for continued concentration of atomic weapon manufacture in this country.

It is said to contemplate that British and Canadian scientists would participate in the work.

Discussion of the three powers' roles moved to the foreground, at least temporarily, with the lull in the congressional atomic investigation. That inquiry deals with how the Russians were able to get atomic material from the U.S. during the war. Congressional probes said over the weekend they have asked for wartime records of the chemical warfare service as a possible clue.

Under the projected American-British-Canadian partnership in the future, Britain would abandon its plan for making A-bombs, as in fact it appears to have done already.

Thus it would end the threat of a future British claim to a larger share of the Belgian Congo uranium—the greater part of which now comes to the United States.

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