

TOKYO ROCKED BY 1300 PLANES FROM HUGE ARMADA NEAR SHORE

MEDFORD
United Press—Full Leased Wire
Thirty-ninth Year

MALL TRIBUNE
United Press—Full Leased Wire
MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1945
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Intense Nine-Hour Raid Is Defiant Challenge to Jap Fleet to Come Out

Admiral Nimitz' Headquarters, Guam, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—American carrier aircraft, swarming over Tokyo in numbers of more than 1,200, kept the Japanese capital in a state of alarm for at least nine hours today, starting fires and mixing with enemy fighter planes in a wild fight, eyewitnesses disclosed.

Crouching in a B-29 Superfortress high above Tokyo, Navy Lt. (jg) David C. McMillin, 27, San Francisco, watched Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's divebombers and torpedo planes pour explosives on the metropolis while escorting Hellcat fighters engaged in swirling dog-fights with Japanese interceptors.

BY UNITED PRESS

While swarms of American carrier planes pressed home a massive attack against Tokyo, Japan today served notice on her armies in China and in the by-passed combat areas of the Pacific that they must prepare to operate without help from the homeland, Melbourne radio reported.

PILLAR OF SMOKE MARKS BOMBING

While 1st Lt. John T. Garvin of Las Vegas, Nev., kept the superfort circling over the frantic capital, McMillin saw the navy pilots pour tons of explosives and high incendiaries on airfields and other key installations. He said a 7,000-foot pillar of smoke rose into the sky from a small island in Tokyo bay.

Some 750 miles south of Tokyo, another big task force of battleships and other surface craft joined land-based planes from the Marianas in bombarding the Japanese stepping-stone island of Iwo.

The waves of planes attacking Tokyo may have caught a major portion of the surviving Japanese fleet in Tokyo bay, either at the big port of Yokohama or in the Yokosuka naval base, 10 and 20 miles respectively south of the capital.

FOUR FORMATIONS PARTICIPATE

Japanese imperial headquarters reported that the planes bombed the Tokyo area from 7 a. m. to 4 p. m. (6 p. m. Thursday to 3 a. m. today, EWT) in waves, concentrating mainly on airfields.

Supplementary enemy broadcasts said the raids extended from Tokyo along the Boso peninsula, on which Yokohama and Yokosuka are situated, into adjacent Shizuoka prefecture. At least four main formations participated, with two of them comprising 300 planes each, Tokyo said.

Tokyo said "military installations"—possibly including the Yokosuka naval base itself—and transport facilities were attacked on the Boso peninsula.

The enemy Domei agency said the airfields attacked were those from which Japanese fighters have been taking off to intercept B-29 Superfortresses. Several dozen airfields altogether surround Tokyo.

It was believed likely that the carrier planes also bombed enemy aircraft factories and other installations.

AIR FORCE DESTRUCTION SEEN AIM

"We can see what the enemy is aiming at—namely the destruction of our air force," one Japanese broadcast said.

The simultaneous attacks under the command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, commander of the Fifth fleet, represented the most daring foray in the history of the American navy, as well as a defiant challenge to the Japanese fleet to come out and fight in its home waters.

In the armada attacking Tokyo was the greatest carrier force the world has ever seen, plus fast battleships, cruisers and destroyers. It includes most of the 20 combat carriers known to be in commission.

(United Press monitors in San Francisco said Radio Tokyo's overseas transmitters went off the air for a half hour shortly after 3 p. m., Tokyo time. It is most unusual for Tokyo transmissions to fail for more than a few minutes at a time, leading to the belief that the raid may have caused a power failure in the enemy capital.)

The Japanese communique on the raid made no claim that any planes had been shot down, but said "our air defense units have intercepted these planes at various localities and have scored considerable war results."

Pinching the Nips



Tokyo reports massive air and sea attacks on Corregidor, hitting an American landing there was near, while General MacArthur's troops thrust rapidly down Bataan Peninsula on both sides.

Reds Near Berlin Suburban Villas

ZHUKOV'S LEGIONS NOW IN POSITION FOR PAYOFF PUSH

Konev's Drive Into Brandenburg Shields Zhukov's Flank; Concerted Drive R

London, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—The red army announced tonight that it had encircled Breslau, capital of Silesia, and captured more than 200 German towns in that area.

London, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—The Russian army newspaper Red Star reported today that Russian spearheads "striking at the very heart of Germany" were nearing Berlin's suburban villas and the river Spree.

Two red armies were grinding away the defenses east and southeast of Berlin in a concerted assault that appeared to be the first phase of the showdown battle for the capital.

The nazis reported that they had blocked a thrust against Cottbus, turntable of the defense network southeast of Berlin only 48 miles from the capital. Marshal Ivan S. Konev's army was closing on Cottbus in a lightning drive that had turned the Oder river line before the capital.

Flank Protected His flank shielded by Konev's push into Brandenburg province southeast of Berlin, Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov now was ready for the payoff drive against the city from his Oder valley positions 30-odd miles to the east.

The signal for the two-way attack on Berlin's near defenses was suggested by a Red Star dispatch which said:

"Only a little distance is left to the banks of the Spree and Berlin's suburban villas. The air is saturated with the odor of hot gunpowder. The German land is burning and smoking. The smoke from fires and explosives darkens the horizon. The terrain and weather favor the enemy, who never fought so stubbornly or so desperately as now that our spearheads are striking at the very heart of Germany."

Planes Aid Reds Moscow dispatches said that smashing blows by American and British planes at Dresden, Cottbus and other key points behind the German lines had impeded frantic efforts by the nazis to rush up reinforcements to face Konev's troops.

Moscow advices said that behind Konev's forward positions dozens of isolated or partly isolated German groups battled desperately against tightening soviet rings or to escape the closing jaws of red army pincers.

The German high command claimed that resistance in lower Silesia had stiffened. In the same communique, however, it said Konev "was able to enlarge his breach area yesterday."

SIDE GLANCES

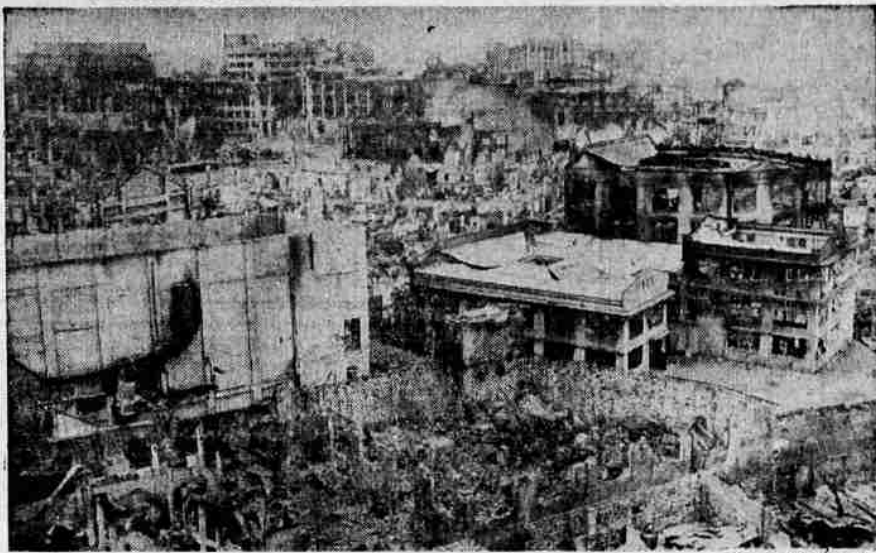
By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Allen Curry pleased but wondering how to obtain those silver bars for son Neal who wired: "Have received promotion, send six pair bars."

Bob Hammond in with a report on his company's inability to furnish telephones to all applicants.

Carlos Morris getting crossed up by his typewriter and contributing a news item which said the group sang "Gold Bless America."

Flames Gut Heart of Manila Business District



The grim horror of total war is awesomely illustrated in this dramatic photo by Stanley Troutman, NEA-Acme photographer for War Picture Pool, of the burned-out business district of Manila, gutted by flames set by Japanese as they fell back under merciless onslaught of victorious American troops.

Yanks Pierce Main Defense Line On Bataan; Avenge Bitter Defeat

Manila, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—American troops broke through the main Japanese defense line on Bataan and advanced swiftly into the southern half of the peninsula today to avenge the United States army's defeat there in 1942—the bitterest of the war.

The breakthrough on Bataan came as other Yanks shot and bayoneted their way through the smoke-shrouded streets of Manila in a no-quarter battle against Japanese holed up in the southern half of the city.

Vanguards of the U. S. 11th army corps all but sealed the conquest of Bataan yesterday with the capture of the Balanga-Pilar area in a five-mile advance down the east coast of the peninsula from Abucay.

Balanga and Pilar formed the eastern anchor of the defense line on which Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright's heroic troops made their last stand on Bataan in the dark days of 1942.

The fall of the two towns put Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces astride the only remaining lateral highway on Bataan, running from Pilar to the west coast town of Bagac. With that line cut, the remaining Japanese on the peninsula appeared to have little chance of waging organized resistance for any length of time.

Nothing in the order would in any way deteriorate quality or force the manufacturer to lower his quality," Jerome Ney, director of the OPA Consumer Goods Price Division, said.

"But how can you produce cheaper clothes without using shoddy materials, non-virgin wool?" Rep. Compton I. White, D., Idaho, demanded.

The meeting was attended by Reps. Harris Ellsworth, R., and Lowell Stockman, R., Ore.

Every legislative session finds various school bills on the docket, mostly asking for funds. Main support this year is for an additional \$5,000,000 appropriation from surplus income tax funds to aid districts faced with heavy student increases, rising teacher costs, continuing maintenance work, and no recourse except to raise property taxes (HB123).

Two other proposals, among about seven in the hopper, would give districts 27 cents per day per pupil (raising about \$3,000,000) and for an additional \$10 a year per pupil from the income tax surplus.

Most any group can make out a good case before a legislative committee. So the United Press checked up on the teacher situation firsthand. The facts are startling.

Short 420 Teachers Superintendent of Public Instruction Rex Putnam reveals there are about 8200 teachers in Oregon and one out of five must be replaced. The system is short 420 teachers if the overload was reduced to an efficient total. There are 938 teachers who have given notice they will not return next year. More than 800 say they would quit now if a substitute could be found. A survey showed only 89 new teachers available. And it is estimated 1656 will be needed as replacements next term, with less than

250 being trained in state schools who will be available. Teachers are leaving Oregon for more money elsewhere. The average salary per teacher (including administrators, university, secondary and elementary) is \$1059 per year, \$141 less than Washington and considerably under California. Teachers are only human and seek the highest paychecks.

California Tax Enough California, incidentally, changed from the Oregon plan of supporting schools from property taxes to a sales tax plan, a dozen years ago, which has returned hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue to completely support the schools and reduce property taxes. State aid to schools is so substantial that salaries are among the highest in the nation.

Under the so-called Walker plan, adopted in 1943, Oregon elementary schools received \$5,000,000 from surplus income taxes but school officials contend this is insufficient.

Most opinion agrees that what Oregon needs is a long-range school program from a fixed source of income, rather than from income taxes, which may sag or soar, according to economic conditions, or other variable funds. There is no agreement how state funds should be distributed, which resulted in a compromise six-way allocation under the \$5,000,000 plan.

Rural districts contend the average daily attendance basis favors city systems and penalizes the sparsely-settled areas.

OPA CHALLENGED BY WOOL STATES ON PRICE CLAIM

Washington, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—Congressmen from wool-producing states and representatives of woolen manufacturers today challenged statement of Office of Price Administration officials that an impending price order would reduce prices of woolen clothing without interfering with wool or mill production.

The proposed plan, a joint effort of the War Production Board and OPA, is expected to be made public Monday. Witnesses at an unofficial House Wool Committee hearing said garment manufacturers would be asked to adjust production schedules to include lower-cost clothing articles which have disappeared from the market.

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The vote on passage was 399 to 2. Passage came after the bill—to strip the commerce department of its present vast lending powers—narrowly escaped recommitment to the banking committee. Republicans, with some southern democratic support, had demanded that the bill be sent back for further study. The vote against recommitment was 204 to 196.

Had the motion carried, there would have been no possibility of completing congressional action on the bill before the March 1 senate vote. That would have jeopardized Wallace's chances of confirmation because many senators are opposed to permitting him to exercise the lending powers exercised by retiring Commerce Secretary Jesse H. Jones through the Reconstruction Finance Corp. and its subsidiaries.

The senate-approved bill would remove the RFC from the commerce department.

The two voting against the passage were Reps. William Lemke, N. D., and Earl Wilson, Ind., both republicans.

GEORGE BILL HAS HOUSE APPROVAL; F.D.R. WILL SIGN

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NEW AUTO PLATES FOR OREGON DUE IN 1946

Salem, Ore., Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—The Irwin-Hudson Co., of Portland today held a state contract for manufacture of 410,000 metal license plates to be issued to Oregon motorists for 1946.

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ALLIED AIRMEN SWARM TO HELP CANADIAN FORCE

Nazis Massing Everything Available to Guard Ruhr Entrance Against Enemy.

Paris, Feb. 16.—(U.P.)—Allied heavy, medium, and fighter bombers swarmed in force to the support of the Canadian First army offensive hammering at the gates of the Ruhr today.

The Germans threw elements of an Eighth Division into the stand against Gen. H. D. G. Crerar's offensive, and front dispatches said they were massing everything available to guard the entrance to the Ruhr.

Hit Transport Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle sent more than 1,000 of his Eighth air force heavies to pound Ruhrland transport bottlenecks for reinforcements and supplies to the German divisions battling Crerar's men.

When the skies cleared this afternoon, Royal Air Force Mitchell and Boston Mediums dumped a heavy weight of explosives on the road junctions of Uedem and Weeze in front of the troops edging toward Goch and Calgar.

Fighter-Bombers, including three French squadrons, strewed high explosive bombs, rockets, and incendiaries along the roads linking the westwall strongholds at which Crerar was aiming.

Mud Slows Drive British units of the Canadian First army turned back two counter-attacks along the Kleve-Calcar road. Vigorous resistance and a sea of mud slowed down the drive, which had cleared a two-mile stretch of the south bank of the Rhine above Kleve.

After dealing with the counter-blows, the British began moving forward again. Front reports said it was a bitter battle, foot by foot through the mud and over roads of which long sections were covered with floodwater.

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