

Weather

FORECAST: Sunday clearing with smoke; little change in temperature. Highest Yesterday 87. Lowest this Morning 69.5

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Fortieth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, JULY 15, 1945.

No. 96.

JAPAN WAR INDUSTRY BLASTED

MIGHTIEST FLEET RAKES HOMELAND, ENEMY LAYS LOW

Steel City, Key Ports Suffer — Air - Sea Assaults Continue Unopposed.

Guam, July 15 — (U.P.) — A U. S. Pacific fleet force including some of the most powerful warships in the world is now bombarding the Japanese steel city of Muroran on Hokkaido island in the second successive day of a thundering sea and air assault that has not yet been opposed by the enemy.

Throwing a second punch into the Japanese homeland, the Pacific fleet bombardment group swung around the fog-shrouded northern islands to train heavy guns on the key industrial center.

More than 1000 carrier aircraft were attacking Honshu and Hokkaido at the same time in a continuation of the latest Third Fleet blow against Japan which opened yesterday at dawn and was being pressed without a respite for the enemy.

The Japanese already have lost 429 planes destroyed or damaged—all but three wrecked on the ground—and 43 vessels sunk or damaged in the fleet attacks which began at Tokyo last Friday.

The battleships Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin are among the warships plastering Japan's sacred mainland for the second time in 21 hours.

The attack opened at 9:26 a. m. today (Tokyo Time—4:26 p. m. PWT) and was still continuing when Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz reported the bombardment in his sixth communique in 28 hours.

The world's most powerful naval force still prowled off northern Japan prepared to throw tons of bombs and shells into every worthwhile target in a naval and aerial assault which the Japanese appeared incapable of preventing.

Hokkaido Hit The bombardment force struck Hokkaido through the heavy mists covering the northern islands in a rapid follow-up to yesterday's assault against the Kamaihi steel port on northern Honshu.

Lighter units of the fleet, including the destroyers McGowan, Norman Scott and Ramey, were also bombarding Hokkaido's coast.

Swarms of carrier aircraft also may be raking Japan again while the giant battleships continue their operations in the historic assault against the empire's mainland.

Nimitz had announced less than four hours earlier that fleet forces were continuing their assault for the purpose of extending and tightening the naval and air blockade of Japan and to destroy Japanese resources.

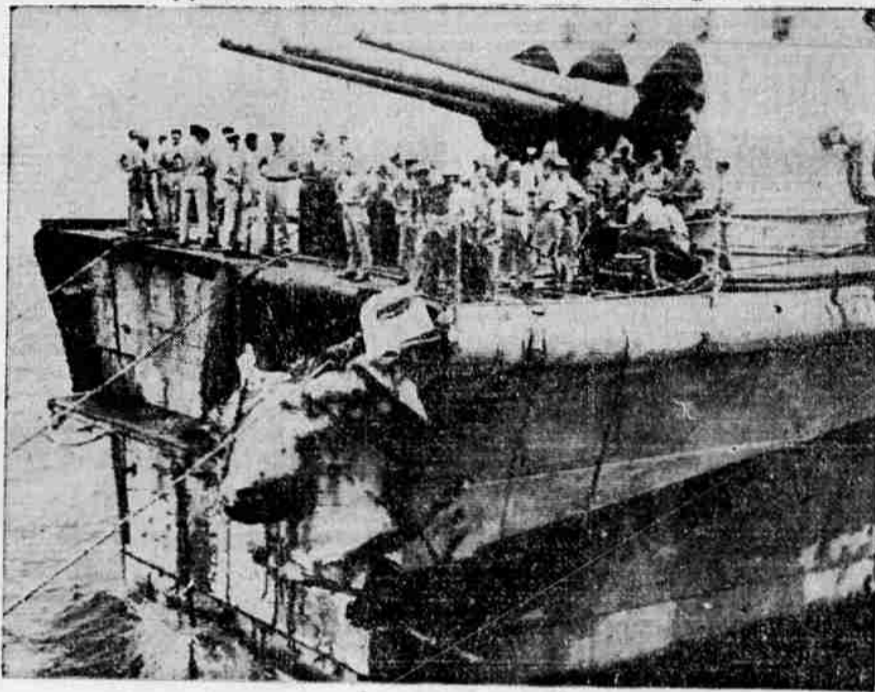
These operations, on July 15, are continuing in strength with heavy surface units and fleet aircraft engaged.

Rear Adm. O. C. Badger, U.S.N., is in command of the Bombardment Group, part of Adm. William F. Halsey's powerful Third Fleet—the mightiest battle force in history.

Near Siberia The port of Muroran is a sheltered harbor and offers several prime targets in addition to the important steel works. A shipyard, synthetic oil plant, machinery factories and an electric power plant are at this moment under direct assault by the fleet's big guns.

Muroran is 215 miles north of Kamaihi and only 310 miles from Siberia. The strength of Halsey's fleet was clearly shown in the events of the past 24 hours. His carriers were able to throw more than 1000 aircraft over northern Japan at the same time one bombardment group blasted Kamaihi. Now, another bombardment group had gone into action while air strikes apparently continued. Japan well understood her plight. Her radio commentators noted that the gigantic Third Fleet was traveling with its own supply train and pessimistically reported that the fleet could carry on the coastal assault for "two or three weeks."

Typhoon Blasts Bow Off USS Pittsburgh



(Acme Radio-Telephone)

Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—A new bow is ready for the cruiser Pittsburgh which lost her original bow in the Pacific typhoon, six weeks ago, the navy disclosed tonight.

The original bow, floating stem up in the ocean, was caught and towed to Guam. It arrived a

week later than the cruiser, in weather-beaten condition and was beached outside the harbor. Eventually it will be salvaged.

Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh was taken into a floating drydock at a Pacific base and had a "stub bow" built on her to insure water-tightness and to allow her to move safely to Puget Sound navy yard, Bremerton,

Wash. A new permanent bow will be standing in drydock there so that the Pittsburgh may float in behind it. The two parts will be joined.

The original bow—referred to by her crew as the "suburbs of Pittsburgh"—cracked off in the typhoon on June 5, 1945. No personnel of the cruiser were on the bow when it broke away.

CHENNAULT QUILTS CHINA AIR POST, POLITICS IS CAUSE

Chungking, July 14 — (U.P.) — Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault today announced his resignation as commander of the U. S. 14th air force in China and his retirement from the army because the Japanese now have been defeated in the skies of China.

Chennault acted only a few days after the announcement that Lt. Gen. George Stratemeyer, commander of the eastern air force, had been appointed commanding general of all U. S. air forces in the China theater.

Chennault, who has spent eight years fighting the Japanese in China—first as air advisor to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, later as head of the Flying Tigers and then as 14th air force commander—said his retirement was dictated by reasons of health.

Observers at Chennault's headquarters in Munning, however, declared that army politics on a fairly high level had contributed to his decision to retire at this time, when the defeat of Japan was in sight.

WAVELL TAKES BLAME Simla, India, July 14—(U.P.)—Field Marshal Viscount Wavell said today the Simla conference of Indian political leaders on British proposals for greater Indian self-government had failed and he accepted responsibility for the future.

FINNS FOR WARSAW London, July 14—(U.P.)—The Swiss radio said the Finnish government had decided to recognize the Warsaw Polish government, it was disclosed today in a dispatch from exchange telegraph.

PRINTERS PENALIZED Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—The War Labor Board tonight penalized the International Typographical Union (AFL) on the grounds that "it has placed its laws above the laws of the United States congress."

BASEBALL Pacific Coast San Francisco 0 6 1 Portland 4 11 0 Buzolic and Ogdowski; Mosser and Younker.

Hollywood 3 10 0 Seattle 0 6 2 Marshall and Hill; Turpin and Finley.

BULLETIN Albuquerque, N. M., July 14 (U.P.) — Thirteen men were killed and one was injured today when a B-29 Superfortress from Kirtland Field crashed near here.

NATION URGED TO RETAIN PACIFIC ISLES AFTER WAR

Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—Sen. Thomas C. Hart, R., Conn., tonight urged that the United States maintain exclusive post-war control over the Pacific islands formerly mandated to Japan.

Hart, former commander-in-chief of the U. S. Far Eastern fleet, said in a radio interview (NBC) that he had no objection to these islands being placed under a United Nations trusteeship "provided we are the trustees."

"I think they (the islands) should all be governed as one unit," he said, "and that we are the ones to do the job."

Hart and Sen. Elbert D. Thomas, D., Utah, were interviewed on problems connected with the fall of Japan. Hart served as head of the U. S. fleet in the Japanese area from 1939 to 1942, while Thomas spent many years in the Far East in the early part of the century.

Hart said control of the Japanese islands by the U. S. was necessary if we are to insure the future independence of the Philippines and peace in the Pacific.

"We need bases in those islands," he said. "One reason we couldn't defend the Philippines from Japanese attack was that we made the mistake of letting those islands go from Spain to other powers—first Germany and then Japan. If we are to accept the responsibility for defending the Philippines, we must be secure in the road which leads there."

NAVY DOCTORS HERE FOR HOSPITAL DUTY Six naval medical officers arrived at Camp White last week to await assignment to the camp hospital. According to word from Oregon congressmen, the facility is scheduled to begin operation August 1 as a naval general hospital, with joint usage by the army.

Officers arriving were Lt. Commander Louise M. Paul, Lt. Daniel S. Klaffen, Lt. Palmer R. Kundert, Lt. W. S. Rinker, Lt. William F. Hovis, Jr., and Lt. James A. Kaufman.

SEN. CORDON LOSES TOSS FOR GLIDER RIDE; IS UNHURT

Washington, July 14 — (U.P.) — The flip of a coin today sent Mrs. Ruth D. (Betty) Kraus, pretty aide to Senate Secretary Leslie L. Biffle, to a hospital after she won a toss for a glider ride from Sen. Guy Cordon, R., Ore.

Handled by a veteran army air forces glider pilot, the glider crashed after hitting a downdraft as it came in for a landing during a glider demonstration at a nearby Clinton, Md., airfield.

Mrs. Kraus, not seriously injured, remained tonight at Casualty hospital for observation. After losing the toss as to who would get the first ride, Cordon gallantly helped Mrs. Kraus into the motorless craft with government officials and other members of congress looking on. A few minutes later, the ship hit the downdraft, landed on a wing and crashed.

JAPS TRAPPED BY FLOOD IN JUNGLE

Calcutta, July 14—(U.P.)—Hard-pressed Japanese units caught in a flooded jungle trap northeast of Pegu have launched a series of small attacks on British troops in an effort to escape across the Sittang river, a communique said today.

Monsoon rains have flooded the sector to a depth of several feet. In many places British patrols have made their way through waist-deep water.

About 15 miles northwest of Pegu, British troops seized three villages. More than 200 miles from Pegu three Japanese units were contacted west of Thauyngyi on the road leading to the Thesh-an Hills.

CHINA SATISFIED London, July 14 — (U.P.) — Chinese quarters in Moscow are satisfied with preliminary results of the conversations between Chinese Premier T. V. Soong and Premier Marshal Josef Stalin, it was reported today.

Seattle, July 14 — (U.P.) — Enroute from Portland, Ore., four cars of a 48-car freight train were derailed today while running through a cross switch, Great Northern Pacific officials said tonight.

MITSCHER, M'CAIN PACIFIC HEROES, GET DESK POSTS

Fleet Flag Officers Given New Duties; Moves Will Speed Victory.

Washington, July 14 — (U.P.) — Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher is reluctantly leaving the bridge for a desk in order to speed victory by giving wider range to his genius for destroying Japanese.

The 55-year-old commander of task force 58, who twice has been bombed off a flagship, is one of 29 navy flag officers who will take on new duties in the next 30 days, Secretary of Navy James Forrestal announced today.

Among others coming ashore is Mitscher's counterpart as a carrier task force chief, 60-year-old Vice Admiral John S. McCain. At the moment, he is commanding the carrier force of Adm. William F. Halsey's third fleet which is blasting Japan's northern islands.

Mitscher, who said recently he hoped he would not have to give up fighting Japanese to take a desk job, will do just that—he will become deputy chief of naval operations for air.

In this job he will help to plan and direct a quick finish for Japan, deploying the 1,000-plane attacks which have helped to soften up the enemy for the final blows.

McCain's new job was not announced, but Forrestal said it would be a presidential appointment. He would not comment on reports that McCain will be assigned to the Veterans administration under its new chief, Gen. Omar Bradley.

For most of three years Mitscher and McCain have been commanders of the first and second fast carrier task forces in the Pacific—Mitscher of 58 and McCain of 38.

They and certain other flag officers are being brought home, Forrestal said, in order that their "combat experience may be utilized in administrative posts ashore to plan and direct the final phases of the intensified Pacific war."

MORGENTHAU ASKS EARLIER CHANGE

Washington, July 14 — (U.P.) — President Truman will nominate War Mobilization Director Fred Vinson to be secretary of the treasury next Monday, instead of waiting until after he returns from the forthcoming Big Three conference in Germany, the White House announced today.

Mr. Truman originally planned to have outgoing Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., continue as treasury head until the conference was concluded. The White House said he changed his plans at Morgenthau's request.

DESTROYER SAVED BY MOON ECLIPSE

San Francisco, July 14 — (U.P.) — A United States destroyer was saved from possible damage by a Japanese suicide aerial attack by an eclipse of the moon, the navy announced here today.

The warship, which was skippered by Comdr. A. E. Teal, San Francisco, was silhouetted against a brilliant full moon when the attack got underway. Ship's gunners shot down only two enemy planes before the eclipse blanketed the area and the destroyer was able to elude the Japanese pilots.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER Albuquerque, N. M., July 14 (U.P.) — New Mexicans have been able to eat meat pretty well this month so far, but they are having trouble finding soap.

RUBBER WALKOUT AT AKRON ENDED BY VOTE OF CIO

Indiana Mine Strike Looms Over Meat Shortage; Only 20,000 Idle.

Chicago, July 14 — (U.P.) — The nation's largest strike, that of 16,700 United Rubber Workers at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Akron, O., plant, ended today, leaving only 20,000 other workers still idle throughout the country.

The Akron CIO union voted by a large margin to return to work as soon as the plant can resume operations. The two-week long strike began when contract negotiations collapsed.

A 24-hour strike at the Studebaker Corp., South Bend, Ind., automotive division ended today when 800 workers, members of the United Auto Workers, CIO, returned to work. They quit over a wage dispute.

A major walkout loomed in southern Illinois where 11,000 progressive mine workers members threatened to join 3,000 fellow miners on strike because of the meat shortage.

A jurisdictional dispute broke out in two San Francisco bay area yards. There 1,500 AFL shipyard workers quit in protest against the hiring of CIO workers.

Three strikes affecting newspapers continued. Striking deliverymen received an appeal from New York City newspaper publishers to end their 14-day strike. The publishers warned that the alternative would be the discharge of the 1,700 members of the Independent Union.

The walkout of AFL composing room employees forced continued suspension of three Birmingham, Ala., and two Fort Wayne, Ind., dailies.

DAKOTA INDIANS TAKE TO WARPATH OVER RATIONING

Minot, N. D., July 14—(U.P.)—The spirit of Old Chief Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, inflamed with the white man's fire water, caused a band of Elbowwoods Indians to go on the warpath in Minot early today.

As a result of their escape, two of them are in jail on 60 days disorderly conduct sentences and police are searching for several other members of the tribal band.

The whole affair started when a waitress at Butler's Inn told them there were no more spare ribs in the kitchen.

The Indians, according to police, didn't like the idea of being told that meat was rationed, and reminded that there was a war on, so they decided to start a little war of their own, appropriating the inn's kitchen knives as weapons.

Police arrived just in time to prevent an old time scalping party, and today, Fred Morsette and Isaac Fox were in jail and William Works, an aged Minot man, was in a hospital recovering from a severe beating.

STRIKE TIES UP WARSHIPS REPAIR

San Francisco, July 14—(U.P.) Repair work on nine battle-damaged U. S. ships now berthed in San Francisco bay area shipyards was halted today when 874 AFL shipyard workers refused to continue work in a jurisdictional protest against the hiring of CIO workers in two local yards.

The AFL contended that the War Shipping administration had "gone outside the craft" in issuing work orders to contractors employing CIO labor.

WAR BULLETINS

Manila, Sunday, July 15—(U.P.)—American troops battling the last resisting Japs in the Philippines captured three important enemy-held towns in mountainous north Luzon, made a new landing on southern Mindanao and advanced 17 miles inland against light resistance, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

Manila, Sunday, July 15—(U.P.)—The harbor facilities of huge Balikpapan Bay have been opened to allied shipping, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

TILLAMOOK FIRES FANNED BY WIND BREAK OUT ANEW

Coos Bay Blaze Checked—Wilson River Road Closed; Cut Logs Burn.

Portland, Ore., July 14—(U.P.) A thousand-acre forest fire in the Coos Bay area was believed under control today, but additional fighters were still being rushed to combat Tillamook county fires from the Portland army airbase.

Now involving nearly 4,000 acres, the Tillamook fires were fanned into fury by sea-borne winds which swept flames over an additional 600 acres to consume new scrub and underbrush. No green timber has been touched so far.

Along the Wilson river, a fire burned eastward up toward Cochran and state police said the Wilson river highway east of Glenwood and west of Tillamook would be closed. The closure was made because of the burning of the McNamer bridge, 20 miles from Tillamook.

Because of rugged terrain, C. C. Scott, manager of the Oregon Forest Fire association made no predictions when the fire around Wilson river would be halted. The Salmonberry river fire, however, is expected to be encircled some time today unless wind increases.

Humidity in the area was 30 per cent—low enough to halt logging operations. Increased humidity was forecast with somewhat cooler weather.

On the Coos river, 20 miles from Coos Bay, losses of \$41,000 are estimated in logs felled and ready for milling. Logging crews, the Coos county Fire Patrol, high school students and conscientious objectors from Elktoft camp have been fighting the blaze for 48 hours.

RED POINT VALUE BUTTER REDUCED

Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—The red point value of creamery butter will drop from 24 to 18 points a pound at midnight tonight.

The Office of Price Administration, announcing the cut, said the point value of farm or country butter and process butter will remain unchanged at 12 points a pound.

The reduction in the creamery butter point value was decided upon, OPA said, because of reduced military requirements for August and to prevent accumulations of butter in cold storage houses. The OPA warned that if supplies are exhausted too fast the ration value will have to be increased.

"C" GAS COUPONS END IN OCTOBER

Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—The use of "C" gasoline coupons will be discontinued about Oct. 1 and supplemental mileage ration thereafter will be issued only with "B" coupons, the Office of Price Administration said tonight.

POTSDAM PARLEYS ON WORLD PEACE TO OPEN MONDAY

Big Three Leaders and Top Advisers Arrive—Secrecy Shrouds Meet.

London, July 14 — (U.P.) — President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin converged on the shattered German capital of Berlin tonight, where they will confer amid the ruins wrought by their armies in search of the means of an enduring world peace.

The advance guard of their top advisers were arriving at the closely-guarded capital. The three leaders themselves are expected to confer for the first time at suburban Potsdam Sunday night, opening a historic 10-day conference which will seek agreement on an intricate maze of political, economic and military problems. Detailed discussions will begin Monday.

Last-minute preparations in the sealed-off conference area of Hohenzollern palaces and woodlands at Potsdam set the stage for the meeting. A freshly-painted green and white barrier guards the road into the forbidden zone. Green-capped Russian troops manned the barrier and stood guard at 50 yard intervals along the highways.

All visitors, including newspapermen, were forbidden to pass the barrier. Marshal Stalin of Russia was host as he was at Yalta. Potsdam is in the Russian occupation zone.

A small airfield in the British zone of Berlin has been isolated, and it is probable that Prime Minister Churchill will arrive there by plane from his vacation castle at Hendaye.

Dispatches from Berlin said President Truman and Marshal Stalin were expected to arrive in the United States and Russian sectors respectively. The Big Three probably will greet each other for the first time in the vast Potsdam palace set aside for the conference.

The first important arrivals set down at two secret areas a few miles from Berlin early this evening. Their identities and the areas where they landed could not be disclosed, as the whole meeting is surrounded with comprehensive security precautions.

ITALY DECLARES WAR UPON JAPAN; READY TO FIGHT

Washington, July 14—(U.P.)—Italian Ambassador Alberto Tarchiani said tonight that his government expected to make land, sea and air forces available for use in the war against Japan.

Many units of the Italian fleet are capable of operating in the Pacific, despite the typhoon hazard there, he said. In addition Italy expects that air force men and volunteer land forces will be available for service of the United Nations, he said.

Tarchiani explained Italy's readiness to fight at a press conference after he officially notified Acting Secretary of State Joseph Grew of Italy's declaration of war against Japan.

"I hope that this is now proof that Italy desires to become one of the United Nations," he said. "Italy is working more and more on the side against their enemies. We are now co-belligerents on a new front and I hope that we will become allies in every way."

MEXICO GREETES

Mexico City, July 14—(U.P.)—President Avila Camacho today sent a telegram of congratulations to Gen. Charles De Gaulle on the anniversary of the French revolution.

FEED LACK SEEN Representatives of the livestock feed industry warned tonight that the nation's grain supplies will not permit any expansion in livestock production.