

War Correspondent Sees Okinawa On Seventh Battle Anniversary

Editor's note: Veteran United Press Correspondent Earnest Hoberacht was with the U. S. fleet off Okinawa during part of the battle for that strategic island. Hoberacht, United Press general manager for Asia, tells in this dispatch about an anniversary visit to the battlefield.

By EARNEST HOBERCHT

Okinawa — (U.P.) — Tuesday is the seventh anniversary of the Allied landing on Okinawa in 1945 and the beginning of the last and bloodiest battle of the Pacific war.

I walked today in reverent silence along the debris-littered invasion beaches and climbed the scarred, blood-soaked hills where more than 12,000 Americans and 110,000 Japanese died. No kamikaze planes.

There were no kamikaze planes today like those that came raining down on the giant fleet which steamed up to Okinawa's beaches with the invasion forces seven years ago. There were no dug-in positions, no flame-throwers, no hand-to-hand combat, no mass suicides by defeated defenders of the island.

The beaches are quiet except for the rush of the tide around rusting landing craft. The hills are bare except for once-shattered trees which are trying to grow again.

Activity Seen

But from both the beaches and

hills you can see lots of activity. The busy scene today results from a gigantic construction program by the U. S. military forces. By the time it is completed in 1956, it probably will have cost \$350,000,000. More than \$200,000,000 has been spent already on the Army and Air Force installations.

You can see the hustle and bustle from almost any part of the old battlefield—from Purple Beach, Brown Beach, Nakagusuku Ridge, Wana Ridge and Suicide Cliff.

Japanese Contractors

Interestingly enough, much of the work is being done by contractors from Japan, America's newest ally in the Pacific.

The Japanese, from whom the island was taken in fierce fighting seven years ago, are now helping the United States make Okinawa into "the Gibraltar of the Pacific."

There are more than 4,000 Americans engaged in the big U. S. construction program or carrying out military duties on Okinawa today. There are also 70,000 Okinawans on the U. S. payroll.

Tunisia Strike Said Only Partial Success

Tunis, Tunisia—(U.P.)—Two unions staged a 24-hour strike Tuesday protesting French rule of Tunisia but their walkout was only a partial success.

Strong units of infantry and field gendarmes patrolled the streets of Tunis and other cities, ready to cope with any violence.

But in Tunis the strike was almost unnoticed, and authorities said, public utilities were operating normally. Employees of streetcar and suburban rail lines refused to take part in the strike.

The walkout followed weekend riots against the French in Tangier and another disturbance Monday at Safi, Morocco.

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DESCRIBING her as "mature in mind and body," Tommy Manville, asbestos heir, says he plans to make Ruth Webb, singer, his ninth wife. (International)

Court's Decision Expected To Speed Gas to Northwest

Spokane—(U.P.)—A ruling by U. S. District Judge Chase Clark brightened prospects Tuesday that natural gas soon would be imported from Canada to the Puget Sound area.

Clark enjoined Trans-Northwest Gas, Inc., Monday from continuing "any act or action" which would delay plans of the Northwest Natural Gas company to pipe in gas from Alberta.

To Turn Over Franchise

The ruling stated that Trans-Northwest could not construct or own any main natural gas transmission line and "should be enjoined from doing business with any company having such main lines in competition with Northwest."

Clark also ordered Trans-Northwest to turn over to Northwest Natural Gas all franchises obtained by it for construction of main trunk lines, and also enjoined the law firm of Graves, Kiser and Graves from "representing and advising connecting companies."

Will Speed Gas

Northwest had brought the case on the grounds that Paul H. Graves, partner in the Spokane law firm, had acted as the company's attorney and then became president of Trans-Northwest a competitor.

N. Henry Gellert, president of the Seattle gas company, said the decision would "speed up our getting natural gas here because the more people in the picture the longer it would take to get natural gas and the more expensive it would be."

Nebraska, Wisconsin Election Stakes High For Sens. Taft, Kerr

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington — (U.P.) — Republican Sen. Robert A. Taft and Democratic Sen. Robert S. Kerr have the most at stake in Tuesday's two Midwestern presidential primaries.

Taft's position as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination depends somewhat on his showing in Nebraska's primary and very much on how

he makes out in Wisconsin. Kerr figures only in the Nebraska poll.

Original Selection

Wisconsin was the state originally selected by Taft managers for a show of strength. That was before their luckless decisions to go into New Hampshire where the senator was beaten and into New Jersey where he felt compelled to withdraw. In addition to those reverses, Taft lost the popular decision on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Minnesota by a spectacular write-in vote margin.

So Wisconsin is the starting post for Taft in a primary comeback effort. Wisconsin does not permit write-in voting. Taft, Gov. Earl Warren of California, Harold E. Stassen, Grant Ritter representing Gen. Douglas MacArthur minus the general's okay and a local candidate of no consequence are on the Wisconsin Republican ballot.

Ike Support Invited

Stassen openly and Warren almost openly have invited the support of Wisconsin enthusiasts for Eisenhower. The situation almost shakes down to a contest between Taft and Eisenhower in which Ike will get credit for most of the Warren and Stassen votes and delegates and Taft will be credited with what he gets in his own name and what Ritter may accumulate in behalf of MacArthur.

Neither Taft nor Eisenhower is entered in Nebraska. Stassen

is in. But interest centers on write-in campaigns undertaken for Eisenhower and Taft. Such votes are not binding but a landslide either way would be important. A landslide for Ike against Taft would be a severe blow to the senator's standing. With some wins under his belt, Ike better could withstand a hard blow. There is a stand-in candidate for MacArthur in Nebraska, lacking the general's sanction.

Kerr on Own

Kerr had been campaigning as a stand-in for Mr. Truman until Saturday night's announcement. He is on his own now as an avowed candidate and says he likes it. Nebraska is near Kerr's home state of Oklahoma. This primary is the first and perhaps the best chance for Kerr to show he has some vote-getting ability away from home. Kerr needs to demonstrate that. His opponent is Kefauver, a hard man to beat.

Gold Hill Grange

Gold Hill Grange H.E.C. met in regular session March 26. The dinner was attended by 18 members, one visitor, Mrs. Nora Bailey, and six gentlemen. Herman Kamping, Charles Foote, Charles Askins, Lester Dusenberry, Mr. Fiene and Glenn Chase. Members present for the first time since being ill were Nina Dusenberry, Blanche Meriman and Jean Densmore.

Members sorted rummage in preparation for the auction. Getwell cards were sent to the Dahls, Chaffees, Nora Walt and Dale Collins. Mildred Wright was remembered with a gift from her Flora friend. Carrie Dierdorff won the prize.

Roxy Ann Grange

Roxy Ann Grange Home Economics club will meet Wednesday, April 2, at 1 p.m., at Grange hall with Stevie McMahon as hostess. Roll call will be "Money-making Projects."

Front Line Troops Get Rotation Bonus

Seoul—(U.P.)—The Army's new scheme for rotating troops from Korea went into effect Tuesday giving front-line troops a clear-cut "bonus".

Under the new system only soldiers in frontline units exposed to enemy fire will get the maximum four points a month. Intermediate zone troops will get three points and support units will get two. A man is eligible for rotation when he has 36 points.

Previously many support troops attached to units in the front lines received front-line

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credit. The Army said the new rotation scheme was intended to keep soldiers not actually under constant enemy fire in Korea longer.

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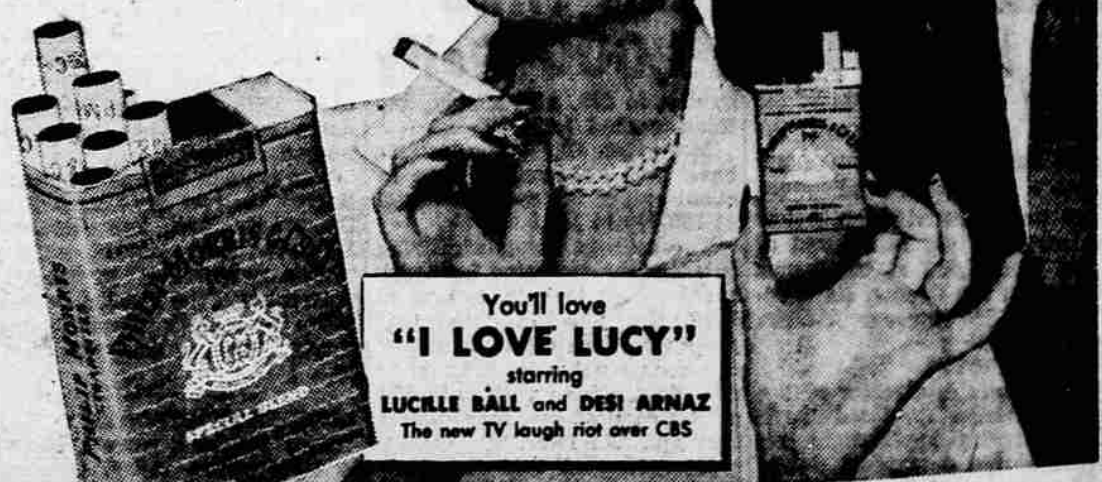
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