

China Attack on 7th Fleet Would Be Suicide, Navy Men Believe

Formosa Invasion Force Would Meet Stiff Resistance

Editor's note: This nation's principal force to thwart a Chinese Communist invasion of Formosa is the U.S. 7th Fleet. How big is this force? How strong a punch does it pack? How does it stack up against the big naval fleets of World War II? These questions are answered in the following dispatch from Washington by Charles Corddry, United Press writer on military affairs.

By CHARLES CORDDRY
United Press Correspondent
Washington — (U.P.) — The United States 7th Fleet would spell bloody suicide for a Red Chinese invasion force launched against Formosa, in the opinion of naval authorities.

Operating in the Western Pacific, with its major elements now massing near Formosa, the fleet probably numbers some 200 ships manned by an estimated 40,000 officers and men.

Spearheaded by five big aircraft carriers, four of them already in Formosan waters, it could hurl murderous fire into a Red force ferried toward Chiang Kai shek's island in wooden junks with torpedoes and little frigates for protection.

The fleet's carriers can mount about 500 Panther and Banshee jet fighters and Skyraider attack bombers. Additional planes are available in land-based patrol squadrons.

Carrier Midway Due
Soon, the mighty 45,000-ton Midway will replace one of the 7th Fleet's 29,100-ton Essex class carriers. The Midway class, of which there are three ships, is the largest afloat and came along too late for World War II. The Midway carries 14 five-inch guns compared with the Essex' 12 and can launch 130 planes to the Essex' 100.

Vice-Admiral Alfred M. Pride, 7th Fleet commander, has said he now has available for whatever mission President Eisenhower assigns, four carriers, six cruisers and 50 destroyers with supporting ships.

In Familiar Haunts
Three of the carriers, Essex, Wasp and Yorktown, fought in the major Pacific battles of World War II and are in familiar haunts in Formosan waters where they once fought the Japanese. The Kearsage, also at Formosa, and the Princeton, elsewhere in the fleet at the moment, were commissioned too late for World War II but fought in Korea.

Pride says he has the stuff to "meet any opposition" in the course of evacuating Chiang's forces from the Tachen islands north of Formosa, should that be ordered. He is a soft-spoken flag officer, risen from the enlisted ranks, not given to bluster.

Still Big Enough
His fleet is small by World War II standards. But it is big for the tasks now seen as possibilities.

For example, to carry out an offensive rather than defensive action, the Navy assembled 281 ships off Inchon, Korea, in Sept. 1950. Of those, 60 were destroyers or bigger. There were five carriers.

In the great Okinawa campaign toward the end of the Pacific war, there were in the U.S.

Chances of Americans To Visit Kin in China Jail Diminishes

Washington — (U.P.) — Chances for American families to visit their jailed kin in Red China faded today as U.S.-Communist Chinese tension mounted over the future of Formosa.

Informed sources indicated the United States will not let any Americans travel to Communist China while there is danger of hostilities breaking out over Formosa. They said, however, that a final decision still must be made.

The State Department has not said yet whether it will permit or bar relatives of 17 imprisoned Americans from accepting Red China's offer to visit the men in Communist jails. The department has said only that it cannot "encourage" such visits to a nation where it is unable to guarantee protection of Americans.

Extortion Attempt May Involve Kidnap

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Dick Sizette, 24, welterweight professional boxer from Seattle, reported an attempted extortion plot believed to involve the possible kidnaping of his cousin.

Sizette told officers he received a mystery telephone call demanding \$1400 after his cousin, Mrs. Sylvia Lierman, 21, San Francisco, failed to arrive here on schedule for a visit.

The boxer said his cousin has been missing since leaving San Francisco last Friday. Sizette said a male called demanded the money from him on the telephone yesterday, but made no mention of Mrs. Lierman.

"I know what you're looking for and when you come with \$1400 at 9 o'clock at 1st and Main Sts. then you'll get what you're looking for," the caller told Sizette.

Sizette came to Los Angeles for a professional fight. He is a Polish immigrant and a former Marine.

FAMILY HABIT
New Haven, Conn. — (U.P.) — Ernest L. Ewell backed his automobile out of a driveway and into a plate glass window of a store. A few days before, his wife had backed into the same building from the same driveway, breaking an ornamental marble slab.

5th Fleet 318 combatant ships and 1139 auxiliaries.

Pride's fleet is the major force of the U. S. Pacific fleet, commanded at Pearl Harbor by Adm. Felix B. Stump, who doubles as commander of all U. S. armed forces in the Pacific area. Stump takes his orders from the Pentagon.

Submarines Question Mark
A question mark in any showdown in the Formosa area would be Red submarines — the handiwork of Communist China may have and the 90 or more Russia may be operating in Far Eastern waters near her Vladivostok and Port Arthur bases.

Naval sources said there has been no evidence up to now of Red submarine activity in the Formosa area. They said the 7th Fleet is prepared against the possibility of such action, however.

The United States does not have diplomatic relations with Communist China.

Feel Danger Heightened
Some top officials apparently feel that it would be even more dangerous to approve the visits now because of the possibility of hostilities breaking out in the Formosa Straits. If the relatives were in Red China as such a time, they might be trapped there.

The State Department had been hoping that none of the relatives would accept the Communist invitation which is believed by experts to be nothing but a slick propaganda trap. However, kin of at least four of the prisoners have said they want to go.

The State Department itself has word that three want to make the trip. It is considering replies to these three.

Those who have expressed a definite desire to make the journey are Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fischer of Swea City, Ia., Mrs. Marjorie Llewellyn of Missoula, Mont., John and Irene Kiba of Akron and W. G. Parks of Omaha.

Might Delay Freedom
Some officials think it possible trips by the relatives actually might delay Communist China's release of the 17 prisoners. They reason that Red China could not release the Americans immediately after the visits because such a move would brand the

Statehood Measures To Miss Subcommittee

Washington — (U.P.) — The House Interior Committee, in a move to speed up action on bills to grant Hawaii and Alaska statehood, has refused to send the measures to a subcommittee.

A motion to send the question to a subcommittee was made yesterday by Rep. John R. Pillion (R-N.Y.), self-acknowledged leader of statehood opposition within the committee. He contended addition of four senators if Alaska and Hawaii become states, would upset the balance of representation in the Senate.

His motion was defeated 15 to 7. Chairman Clair Engle (D-Calif.) called another hearing on statehood for Friday. He said he will continue almost daily sessions until the committee acts.

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Green Veneer Plant Started at Dixonville

Roseburg — (U.P.) — The Roseburg Lumber company announced Tuesday that work has begun on construction of a green veneer plant at Dixonville, Ore., and on expansion of the firm's plywood plant at Dillard, Ore.

Production at the Dillard plant will be increased about 60 per cent, company officials said. About 200 additional men will be employed by the firm when the Dixonville plant goes into operation July 1.

JOYOUS GREETING

Washington — (U.P.) — T. Coleman Andrews, commissioner of internal revenue, wrote a guest column today for the weekly newsletter of Rep. Craig Hosmer (R-Calif.). It began: "Howdy folks, I am your federal tax collector . . ."

HOUSE STOLEN

Edmonton, Alta. — (U.P.) — W. Oakie told police today somebody stole his house. Neighbors said they saw someone load the two-room house on a truck and drive it away.

Redmond Mills Give Voluntary Wage Hike

Redmond — (U.P.) — The Tite Knot Pine mill and Ponderosa Lumber Sales have announced voluntary wage increases of 7 1/2 cents an hour for all millworkers. The boost was effective Jan. 1, 1953.

Marsden Elliott, general manager of Ponderosa, said that the moulding plant employing 20 men will be shut down for a time due to lack of dry lumber. But other departments of Ponderosa and the Tite Knot mill are running as usual, he said.

GOOD ADVICE

Muskegon, Mich. — (U.P.) — A burglar who stole a distributor cap from a car owned by the Muskegon County librarian, Kay Wilson, returned it with this note: "I thought it over and decided I would be mad and feel badly if it happened to me. In the future keep your garage door locked."

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- RAYON PAJAMAS** \$1.98
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- RAYON PANTIES** 14c Pr.
Run resist. Limited quantity. Sizes 4-12. First quality, white.
- SHIRT BLOUSES** \$1.00
Cotton knit, long sleeve. Red-gray check and blue-navy check. Sizes 10-14. Were \$1.95. Now

INFANT'S WEAR

- Water Repellent Snowsuit** \$3.98
Spot resistant. Rayon and acetate gabardine. Values to \$9.98. Now
- CLEARANCE BABY HOODS** 66c
Wool and nylon knit. Assorted pastel colors. Values to \$1.00. Special
- COTTON SHIRTS** 27c
Tie side and snap side seconds. Sizes 1-2-3. Reg. 39c. Special
- 100% WOOL SWEATERS** 97c
Fine quality, assorted pastel colors. Regular \$1.29. Sale price only

LADIES' WEAR

- HEAD SQUARES** 47c
Large size all wool. Solid colors and bright plaids. Regular 89c. Now
- PLISSE SLIPS** 88c
Full length, bias cut. No ironing necessary. First quality white with lace and embroidery trim top and bottom. Size 32-40. Regular \$1.49.
- RAYON GOWN** 79c
Run resist. Lace trim. Sizes med. and lge. Pink, maize, turquoise & mellow. Reg. \$1.00.
- COTTON BLOUSES** \$1.49
Some knit, some flannel. Long and short sleeves. Asst. colors and sizes. \$1.98 value

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- Close Out Dish Odds and Ends** 1/2 Price
Creamers, sugar bowls, gravy boats, cereal dishes, vegetable dishes, plates.
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Assorted patterns with gold trim. Regular 39c. Now reduced to
- GLASS MIXING BOWLS** 19c
2 quart size. Regular 29c value.
- ALUMINUM BAKEWARE** 24c
All sizes cake pans, loaf pans, muffin tins and cookie sheets. 29c value.

MISCELLANEOUS

- MEN'S KNIT SOCKS** 97c Pr.
100% wool. Sanforlan treated. Asst. bright argyles. Won't shrink. Size 11-13. Were \$1.49.—
- Men's Handkerchiefs** 10 for 77c
Lg. white cotton. Fine quality. Rolled hems. Reg. 2 for 25c.
- Men's SPORT SHIRTS** \$2.77
Long sleeve, sanforized, fast color, wrinkle resistant. Made of fine combed cotton and spun rayon. Sizes S-M-L. Were \$3.98.
- Ladies' Slippersocks** \$1.33
100% wool. Sizes S-M-L. Bright, colorful patterns in red and green. Were \$1.79.
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