

REDS DECLARE WAR ON JAPAN

FOURTH ATTACK OF DAY ON JAP HOME ISLANDS

61st Enemy City Scorched By 20th Air Force Incendiaries

DAY-LONG ASSAULTS

GUAM, Aug. 8.—(P)—American B-29s fire-bombed another forewarned Japanese city today, more than 100 of the Superforts raiding Fukuyama on Honshu island shortly before midnight in the fourth attack of the day on homeland targets.

ON INLAND SEA

Fukuyama, with a population of 87,000, is on the Sanyo main railroad 42 miles northeast of Kure on the inland sea. It is headquarters for a military unit and the home of many small industries producing aircraft parts.

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Four Nations Agree On War Criminal Trials

LONDON, Aug. 8.—(P)—The key plan for the trials of Germany's major war criminals was signed today by the representatives of the United States, Britain, Russia, and France.

Charter Ratification Formally Completed

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—Ratification of the United Nations charter by this country was formally completed today with President Truman's signature on the senate's instrument of approval.

Local Postoffice Flooded With Soldiers' Souvenirs

As the war in Europe ended Shelby post office employees saw their jobs lighten considerably when a 50 per cent drop in packages and letters going overseas was experienced here.



BOWERS WINS FLYING CROSS

Son Of Mr. And Mrs. A. C. Bowers Fighter Pilot, Gets Medal

For "extraordinary achievement in aerial combat" the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to 1st Lt. James A. Bowers, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bowers of Shelby at an Eighth air force fighter station in England where he has been serving as a fighter pilot.

A veteran of seven months combat against the enemy, Lt. Bowers was cited for "courage and flying skill exhibited in ground strafing, dive bombing and bomber escort missions over enemy territory."

The citation read: "the vigor and determination exhibited by Lt. Bowers aided materially in the effectiveness of bombardment attacks and contributed immeasurably to the disruption of enemy transportation facilities and installations."

Lt. Bowers had previously received the Air Medal and eight oak leaf clusters to the medal.

The 23-year-old P-51 Mustang pilot shot down three German fighters as a member of the 356th fighter group. The first time he flew in combat he brought a Messerschmitt 109 down in flames. On another mission he scored a double victory.

Lt. Bowers entered the army air forces in September, 1942, and received his wings and commission on April 15, 1944. He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant last February while overseas.

CHARTER RATIFICATION FORMALLY COMPLETED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—Ratification of the United Nations charter by this country was formally completed today with President Truman's signature on the senate's instrument of approval.

Mr. Truman and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, at a ceremony in the executive offices, signed the historic one-page senate document, and also placed their names on two copies of the full text of the charter drawn by 50 nations at San Francisco.

One copy of the charter, approved by the senate by an 89 to 2 vote, was bound in white leather, the other in blue.

The instruments then were placed "on deposit in the archives of the state department" which completed the required steps.

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TRUMAN WILL MAKE REPORT ON CONFERENCE

Will Speak To Nations On Radio At 10 P. M., EWT, Thursday

MAY MENTION BOMB

By Ernest B. Vaccaro

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—President Truman will report to the nation on the Potsdam conference over all radio networks at 10 P. M. Eastern War Time Thursday in a 30-minute speech.

Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross said today the speech, which probably also will be short-waved abroad, will go into greater detail than the communique issued by the big three at the close of the meeting July 26.

Mr. Truman worked on the speech today as well as on a mass of other paper work which accumulated during his month long absence. He held his calling list to a minimum, including brief conferences with Senators Hatch (D-NM) and Kilgore (D-WVA) and Secretary of War Stimson.

The Stimson conference was devoted to further discussion of the atomic bomb.

Associates of the president indicated that his report on the Potsdam conference probably will mention the new and revolutionary bomb used for the first time against Japan.

These assistants said they did not know however if the presidential address would go into any greater detail on the Pacific war, a phase that was ignored in the big three conference announcement because of Russia's neutrality.

CABINET MEETING

Mr. Truman scheduled a meeting with his cabinet Friday and decided to withhold any news conferences until he has given his public report on the big three meeting.

As tentatively drafted aboard the

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CHINESE TAKE KUKIANG ISLE

Removes Only Obstacle To Allied Landing In Foochow Area

CHUNGKING, Aug. 8.—(P)—The Chinese high command announced today that Chinese troops had recaptured Kukiang island at the mouth of the Min river northeast of Foochow, thus driving the Japanese from their last coastal foothold in the vicinity of that Fukien province port.

The announcement said the island was held by only a small number of Japanese and the operation apparently was carried out with only slight opposition.

The capture of Kukiang island removed the only remaining obstacle to a possible allied landing in the vicinity of Foochow, capture of which was announced by the Chinese last May 19.

The high command also announced belatedly that Hingan, in Kwangsi province on the Hunan-Kwangsi railroad 3 miles northwest of Kweilin, had fallen to Chinese troops July 30.

CHINESE THREAT The development of a Chinese threat from the west aimed at Tungan in Hunan province was indicated by the high command.

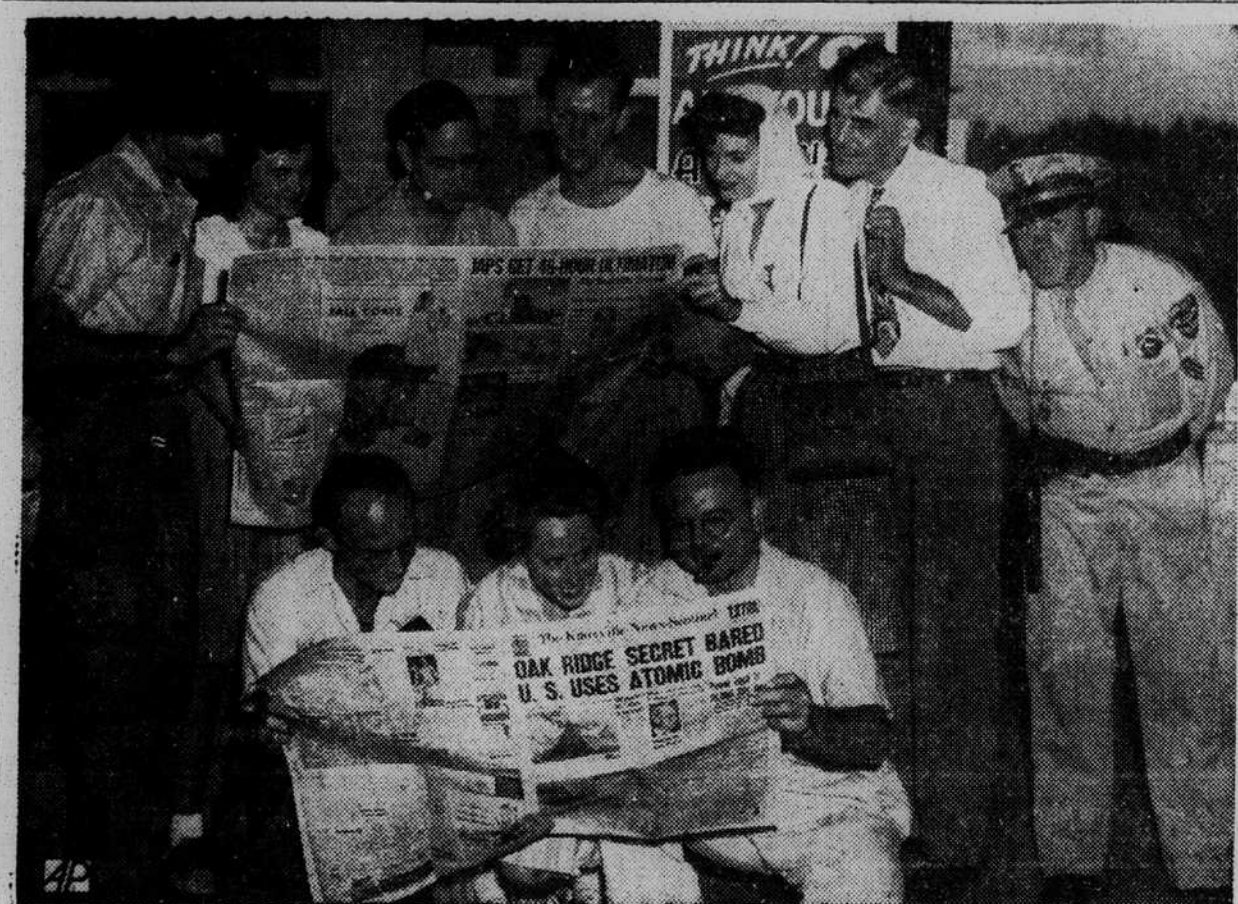
Chinese troops striking out from recently liberated Sining in Hu-

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NEGRO ESCAPES PRISON SQUAD

Eugene Jones, negro, serving a 15-year term for robbery, made his third escape from a State Prison squad when he left the gang while it was working in the Cicero Falls sand pit yesterday afternoon and was the object of a widespread search last night and today. So far no trace of him has been found.

When he escaped he was wearing sneakers and had on stripes. In addition to his North Carolina sentence, he is also said to be wanted in Ohio.



OAK RIDGE WORKERS LEARN THE 'BIG SECRET'—A group of workers in the atomic bomb plant at Oak Ridge, Tenn., read newspaper accounts of the startling "secret" after the dramatic revelation that one of the bombs had been used to blast Hiroshima, Japan. Until President Truman lifted the secrecy from the bomb, none of the Oak Ridge workers knew what they were making.—(AP Wirephoto).

Cotton Forecast Is 17 Per Cent Off

1945 Crop Of 10,134,000 Bales Would Be 2,096,000 Less Than 1944 Production

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—The agriculture department today forecast a United States cotton crop for 1945 of 10,130,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight based upon information as of August 1.

This would be 17 per cent or 2,096,000 bales less than 1944 production and 2,159,000 bales less than average production for the 10-year (1934-43) period.

The indicated lint yield per acre of 269.7 pounds is 39 pounds above average and has been exceeded in only three years—1944, 1942 and 1937.

Allowing for average abandonment of acreage in cultivation as of July 1, the acreage for harvest this year is computed at 18,034,000 acres—10 per cent below acreage harvested in 1944 and the smallest during any of the past 60 years.

A report from the bureau of the census shows 132,541 bales of cotton ginned from the crop of 1945 prior to August 1, compared with 48,182 bales for 1944 and 107,053 bales for 1943.

LATE CROP This year's crop generally is late and there have been numerous complaints of poor stands. Weather during the last half of July, however, has been beneficial in most areas.

Per acre yields are expected to be below those harvested last year in all states except Florida, New Mexico and California. However, above

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Max Washburn Is Named To Board Of Retirement System

RALEIGH, Aug. 8.—(P)—Governor Cherry today appointed William G. Pittman of Rockingham, Walker Lyerly of Hickory and Max Washburn of Shelby to the board of trustees of the teachers' and state employees' retirement system.

The appointments are to be confirmed by the senate.

PRESIDENT TAKES OVER:

To Direct Atomic Bomb Campaign Against Japan

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—President Truman today took over from the White House personal direction of the atomic bomb campaign he believes foreshadows early victory over Japan.

The commander-in-chief voiced his victory hopes to newsmen accompanying him home from the big three meeting in Berlin. He termed the devastating weapon—which wiped out 60 per cent of its first target, a Japanese city the size of Memphis—"the most powerful weapon for war and peace ever devised."



BOMB SCIENTIST — Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer (above), former University of California theoretical physicist, is director of the atomic bomb project laboratory at Los Alamos, N. M. He is credited with achieving the implementation of atomic energy for military purposes.—(AP Wirephoto).

LUZON GAINS VERY SMALL

Intensified Mop-Up Campaign Meets Strong Jap Resistance

By RUSSELL BRINES BAGUIO, P. I., Aug. 8.—(P)—American and Filipino troops fought an intensified mop-up battle with the strong Japanese garrison defending the northwestern approach to the Agno river valley of northern Luzon Island Monday—and for the third day, gains were measured in yards.

A sizable Japanese force is fighting with automatic weapons and mortars along a ridge 55 miles north of Baguio. Maj. Paul J. Pernish's F company, second battalion, and a battalion of Filipinos made the initial assault on this ridge August 4.

Since then, the attackers have been slowly cleaning out strong pillboxes, entrenchments and caves against stiff opposition.

The ridge overlooks the village of Buguias, a Japanese center near the northern edge of the valley. Some 250 of the enemy were sighted there a few days ago.

Meanwhile another force moving rapidly against spotty resistance northward along the floor of the valley occupied the village of Kabayan Sunday.

WHAT'S DOING

TODAY 8:00 p. m.—Midweek prayer and praise service at First Baptist church. THURSDAY 7:00 p. m.—Regular meeting of Kiwanis club. 7:30 p. m.—Baseball game at high school park between Shelby legion juniors and Moore general hospital.

Long-Expected Move To Speed End Of War

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(AP)—President Truman announced today that Russia has declared war on Japan. Truman made the momentous announcement to a hurriedly summoned news conference.

He said he had only a simple statement to make, but it was so important he could not delay it. Then with a broad grin he declared, "Russia has just declared war on Japan. That is all."

The disclosure that the Soviet Union had at last pitted its enormous might alongside Britain and the United States against the Pacific enemy had not been unexpected. When it would come, however, had been a matter of conjecture for months. Official Washington at once took this development along with the unleashing of atomic bombing against the Pacific enemies as a sure sign that Japan cannot long continue to resist.

BULLETIN LONDON—The Moscow radio announced tonight that Russia was at war with Japan effective as of August 9.

Hiroshima Scene Of Complete Destruction

By MORRIE LANDSBERG

GUAM, Aug. 8.—(P)—The obliterating blast of a single atomic bomb dropped by a lone Superfort destroyed 60 per cent of the important Japanese city of Hiroshima and today Tokyo admitted that practically nothing escaped death in its scorching path.

"Those outdoors burned to death, while those indoors were killed by indescribable pressure and heat," reported Tokyo. It said the city was in "disastrous ruin" and that houses and buildings were "crushed."

The newspaper Asahi Shimbun appealed to the people to remain calm under the "inhuman" bombing and "pledge to fight through until the last." The editorial declared the Japanese mind had been "trained for just such an occasion as this."

General Spaatz warned the enemy that more B-29s are ready to drop more of the world's most destructive explosives on the island cities if resistance continues.

The Strategic Air Forces commander said that 4.1 square miles of Hiroshima's built-up area of 6.9 square miles were wiped out. Five military targets were destroyed by the one bomb.

Grim details of what happened on the ground came only from Tokyo. The enemy broadcast revealed that the blast was so terrible that the dead could not be distinguished from the injured. Neither could be identified. Destruction was so great, and need for relief so urgent, that authorities had been unable to establish the extent of civilian casualties.

Spaatz based his communique on photographs from the sky. "They showed the heart of the city devastated with awful thoroughness—as if a giant bulldozer had swept up buildings and houses and dumped them into a river."

HARBOR AREA Reconnaissance disclosed that the harbor area of Hiroshima—population of about 343,000—was barely touched by the tremendous blast. But the concussion, or fire effect was so overpowering elsewhere that several firebreaks and seven streams—one stream was about three city blocks wide—failed to stop

The high degree of concentration

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Army Denies Bomb Leaves Death-Dealing Radioactivity

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—(P)—The War Department today denied published reports that areas devastated by the atomic bomb continue for years to react with death-dealing radio activity.

In a statement, the department quoted Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer, head of this phase of the atom's research, as saying "there is every reason to believe that there was no appreciable radio-activity on the ground at Hiroshima and what little there was decayed very rapidly."

Published reports had quoted Dr. Harold Jacobson of Columbia University, one of those who participated in the atomic research work, as saying the bomb-affected area in Japan might cause death for persons entering the area for a period of 70 years.

One of the initial War Department announcements on the bomb's discovering, however, describing an experiment with the bomb in July in New Mexico, said "to examine the nature of the crater" caused by the explosion "specially equipped tanks were wheeled into the

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