

Henderson Daily Dispatch



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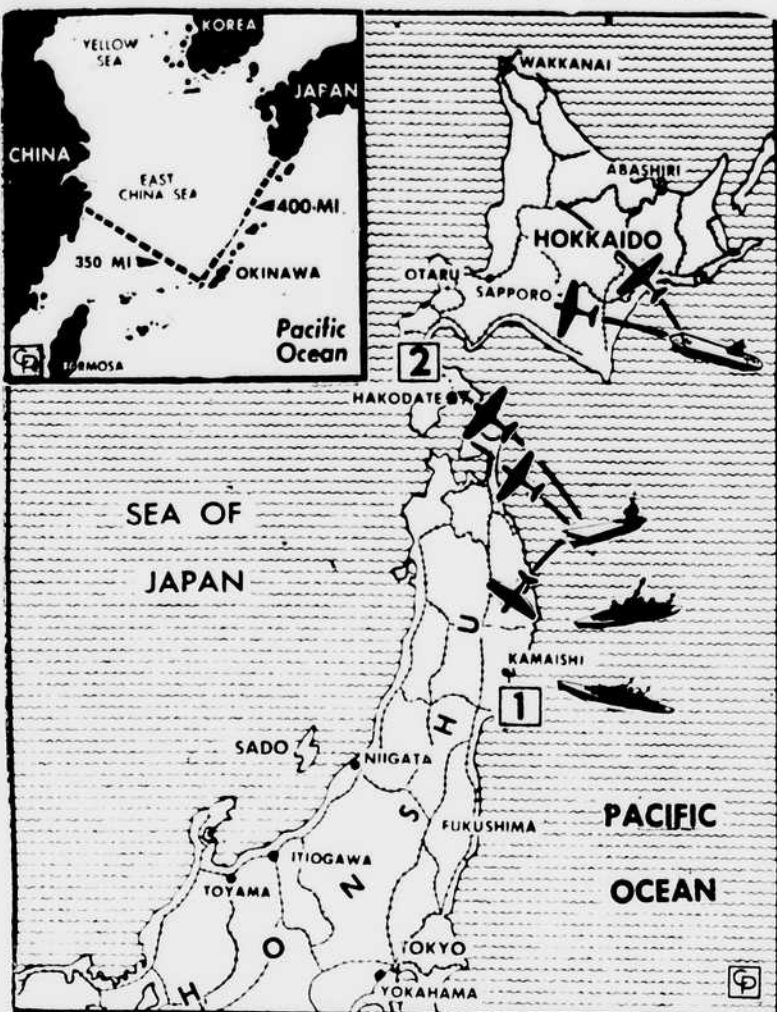
PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

140 JAP SHIPS SUNK, WITH 234 DAMAGED

Stalin, Molotov Lunch Guests Of Truman, Byrnes

WHERE YANKS SHELLED JAPAN



IN THE BOLDEST NAVAL ACTION of the war, units of the U. S. Pacific fleet steamed into Japan's front yard and, for the first time, tossed tons of shells from heavy warships into a Jap city. The target was Kamaishi (1), strategic steel-producing center on Honshu. While the nine-vessel task force was bombarding the coastal city, more than 1,000 carrier planes swarmed over northern Honshu and Hokkaido and blasted enemy installations. The city of Hakodate (2) was left aflame. In inset, the U. S. base at Okinawa is shown in relation to Japan. (International)

Marshal In Conference At Potsdam

Russians Arrived At Meeting Place Now Two Days Ago

Potsdam, July 17.—(AP)—Premier Stalin conferred with President Truman at the Little White House today in company with their ranking foreign officials a few hours before the world-shaping big three conference was scheduled to start.

The generalissimo, attired as a marshal of the Soviet Union, was accompanied by Foreign Commissar Molotov. They were guests at luncheon of President Truman and Secretary of State Byrnes. The party talked for an hour.

The atmosphere of secrecy surrounding the delayed start of the conference with Prime Minister Churchill was heightened in the murky, cloudy morning by three mysterious explosions in the Russian zone of Berlin.

The two Soviet leaders arrived in Potsdam two days ago. It was disclosed there was no explanation, however, why the opening of the conference had been delayed yesterday.

The Russians appeared at Mr. Truman's residence at 11:50 a. m. with their official interpreter, V. N. Pavlov, and were greeted by the President's military and naval aides and then by Mr. Truman and his secretary of state in their offices on the second floor.

Charles E. Bohlen, of the State Department, was the American interpreter. Pavlov has accompanied Stalin to all the previous big three meetings. The six were together for an hour before going to lunch.

Mr. Truman wore a brown business suit and sat at the head of the table. The generalissimo's attire was fawn colored with silver edged stars on the shoulders. He sat on the President's right. Pavlov and Molotov sat at Stalin's right in that order, while Byrnes, Bohlen and Admiral William D. Leahy, Mr. Truman's personal chief of staff, were at the President's left, in that order.

Mr. Truman had seen Prime Minister Churchill informally yesterday, when the British leader called to pay his respects. The luncheon was concluded at 2:45 p. m. It was the kind of easy-going meeting without Missions making his debut in the world's biggest political circle. For Stalin, whose pleasures also have been simple, except when the Russian tradition of gorgeous formalities required herculean fetes—it was an opportunity to size up at leisure the successor of President Roosevelt.

Truman En-Route To Big Three Confab



Passing at Brussels, Belgium, before proceeding to Potsdam, Germany, for his big three meeting with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin, President Truman chats with General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Secretary of State Byrnes before entering a plane for the last leg of the trip. U. S. Signal Corps Radio-photo. (International Soundphoto.)

Tonnage Of 150,000 Is Toll Taken

Land Transports And Big Industry Blasted By Planes

RIGHT AT TOKYO. Guam, July 17.—(AP)—A daring American naval task force steamed to within 80 miles of Tokyo tonight and bombed industrial targets on the heels of an eight-hour raid by 1,500 planes of American and British carrier planes in the area of the Japanese capital.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced the bombardment while it was still under way only a few hours after he reported carrier planes had knocked out 374 Japanese vessels and 129 locomotives in their week-end sweep over northern Japan.

Guam, July 17.—(AP)—At least 140 ships and small craft were sunk in the two-day carrier sweep over northern Japan last week-end, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced today, while 1,500 British and American carrier aircraft were sweeping the Tokyo area.

Shipping sunk included nine small warships—an old destroyer, two destroyer escorts, two patrol craft and four picket craft. All shipping sunk totaled 71,000 tons.

Another 234 vessels, totaling 88,000 tons, were damaged. These included seven destroyer escorts or gunboats, and three patrol craft.

Additional heavy damage was done to industries and land transportation during the air sweeps which were coordinated with naval bombardments of steel centers on northern Honshu island and nearby Hokkaido, northern refuge for Japanese fleeing from Superbomber raids on industrial sites.

Nimitz listed the following ships as sunk in addition to the nine small war vessels: Six tankers, one large cargo ship, one medium oiler, twelve medium cargo ships, twelve small cargo ships, three tugs, 59 loggers and 37 miscellaneous craft. Damaged vessels were named as three train ferries, one transport, one large cargo ship, one medium oiler, 14 medium cargo ships, eight small oilers, 18 small cargo ships, one tug, one landing ship tank, 86 loggers and 87 smaller craft.

Damage on the ground included 84 locomotives destroyed, 45 damaged—the heaviest single toll of Japanese rail transportation ever taken by Allied forces.

Explosions Rock Berlin

Berlin, July 17.—(AP)—Three terrific explosions, apparently emanating in the Russian zone of occupation, rocked Berlin and Potsdam early this morning, and still were unofficially explained at noon. The blasts rattled windows in the area where President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill are quartered for the big three conferences and caused bomb-weary Berliners to cast apprehensive glances skyward.

American officers charged with security in this sector said they had received no report on the cause of the blasts, but added that the Russians had been doing considerable demolition work, and that the explosions might be connected therewith.

Chinese Forces Enter Former U. S. Air Base

United States 14th air force. This advance placed the Chinese at a point within nine and a half miles of Yungku, which is 31 miles southwest of Kweilin.

Other Chinese forces drove a wedge in the Hunan-Kwangsi railroad between Kweilin and Chuan-nien, 57 miles northeast of Kweilin, thus cutting off enemy retreats to the former air base along the rail line which runs through Hengyang.

Lake Steamer Burns With Many Persons Injured In Escapes

Farmia, Ontario, July 17.—(AP)—The 300-foot Great Lakes passenger liner Hamonic, carrying 255 passengers, was destroyed by fire today with many persons injured and burned, hit a clerk at the Canada Steamship Lines said "as far as we know no lives have been lost."

The clerk said it was believed all aboard scrambled to safety after fire that broke out in the 1,000-foot-long freight dock spread to the vessel. The decks were leveled.

American and Canadian fire-fighters joined forces to combat the flames on the ship and ashore.

The Hamonic, one of the largest passenger ships on the lakes, had left Detroit last night on a cruise and was tied up at Point Edward near the blue water bridge. The

bride spins at St. Clair river at the southernmost tip of Lake Huron, connecting Port Huron, on the American side and the Canadian city of Erietta and Point Edward.

Officers of the steamship line in Detroit said indications were that the Hamonic would be a total loss.

No accurate estimates of the number of injured were available. Corridors of Farmia general hospital were jammed with ship's passengers lying on the floors awaiting treatment.

Fire-fighters expressed belief that the ship would burn to the water line. The 1,000-foot freight shed and adjacent coal piles were also ablaze and burning unchecked at 10 a. m. EDT.

First Men From Italy In Pacific

Manila, July 17.—(AP)—The first American service troops shipped directly into the Pacific war zone from Europe without a trip home arrived here today to a wet slobby welcome after a month's journey from Italy.

The 4,275 veterans of Africa, Sicily and Italy landed on a muddy Manila dock in the "ramp down. Two bands played and the men moved from LCMs to freight cars which carried them to their new camp, 35 miles south of here.

They came from nearly every service branch of the Fifth Army, ranging from railway construction to bridge repair. There were four companies of white troops, but the remainder were Negroes. None were considered combat men.

It was said another transport was expected later this month, and thereafter regular arrivals direct from Europe.

Receipts Taken By Meadows Are Talked At Trial

Greenville, July 17.—(AP)—The State, concluding its cross-examination of Dr. Leon R. Meadows, tried to prove today that the former president of East Carolina Teachers College, caused three Negro workmen to sign blank receipts which later were filled out by him for amounts of \$705 in excess of those actually paid.

Special Prosecutor Jesse Jones asked Dr. Meadows why it was that he came into court with alleged receipts covering work in the new classroom building in 1942, although he had receipts for only ten percent of all his expenditures of special and student funds. Dr. Meadows answered that he had checks or receipts for 96 percent of the expenditures. Asked where the estimates were, the defendant replied that they were in various places, and that some of them were in the company records.

Re-direct examination of the defendant was expected to begin this afternoon.

Meanwhile, defense attorneys said that Dr. Meadows still was suffering from an attack of rheumatic fever.

FOOD SHORTAGES TO LAST FOR MONTHS

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—Americans can expect food shortages for many months to come. So saying in a frank report last night, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said "we are likely to dine on most simple fare, minus steaks and much of the sweetening of prewar years."

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Considerable cloudiness east portion and partly cloudy west portion tonight and Wednesday; continued moderate temperatures, and scattered showers.

Congress Lining Up Over Draft

Martin's Proposal For World Accord Finds Many Critics

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—Dis- armament arguments of 25 years ago echoed in Congress today as legislators took sides on a proposed international ban on peacetime military training.

The suggestion came from House Republican Leader Martin of Massachusetts in a resolution calling on United States officials to negotiate such a pact with other nations.

Administration leaders immediately

Mr. Truman is just getting used to the sometimes cumbersome business of interpreters, but this was a smooth beginning. What they talked about remained a secret.

Truman In Berlin For Conference



President Truman steps from his plane at Gatow airport, in the Potsdam area of Berlin, for the historic big three meeting with Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin. The President reached Germany after a flight from Brussels, Belgium. Admiral William D. Leahy, his naval adviser, follows him from the plane. U. S. Signal Corps Radio-photo. (International Soundphoto.)

Bombardment Of Japan Preliminary To Invasion

Soong Is Back In China Following Visit To Moscow

Chungking, July 17.—(AP)—Premier T. V. Soong returned today from Moscow after a visit of more than two weeks in the Russian capital, during which he conferred with Premier Stalin and other high Soviet officials.

Soong was accompanied to Chungking by the Soviet ambassador to China.

U. S. Envoy Will Probe Hitler Tale

Washington, July 17.—(AP)—A State Department spokesman said today that the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires will investigate reports that Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun are in Argentina.

In response to a question, the spokesman said that the embassy would look into the story, sent by a Chicago Times correspondent from Montevideo, that the pair had reached a solitary section of the long Argentine coast on a submarine and are living on a huge German-owned estate in Patagonia.

It was pointed out that Argentina has given assurances to the other Allied governments that it would refuse to harbor any former Axis war criminals.

Stocks Decline By Fractions On Later Dealings

New York, July 17.—(AP)—Stock market leaders generally extended their retreat by fractions to a point or more today, with dealings broader and livelier than the past week.

Among casualties were Santa Fe, Great Northern, U. S. Steel and U. S. Rubber. An exception was Electric Power & Light, which edged to 1943 peak.

Bonds and commodities were lower.

HIYIA ISLE SEIZED.

Guam, July 17.—(AP)—American forces have moved up to within 310 miles of Japan with the unopposed conquest of eight-mile long Hiyia Island, 30 miles northwest of Okinawa.