

OKINAWA WAR IS NEAR DECISIVE PHASE

Great Yank Carrier Of Warplanes Limp Home

Franklin Somehow Survives Record Jap Attacks

(NEA pictures of Aircraft Carrier Franklin are on Page 6).

BY POPE HALEY
Washington, May 18—

(AP)—The aircraft carrier Franklin, which miraculously survived one of the severest ordeals of this or any war, is home.

She came home, sadly crippled but under her own power, her charred and battered hull manned by a skeleton crew of survivors. Now undergoing repairs at the Brooklyn navy yard, she will resume her place in the war against Japan.

Until now Japanese radio propagandists never knew how close they came to being right when they boasted that the 27,000-ton vessel of the Essex class had been sunk.

At it was the carrier suffered 832 men killed and missing and 270 wounded—more than one-third her total complement—in blazing, agonizing hours.

Chance played into the hands of the lone enemy dive bomber that streaked suddenly out of the clouds within 60 miles of the Japanese coast on the morning of March 19 and dropped two 500-pound armor piercing bombs.

Released from low altitudes, both scored direct hits. One exploded beneath the flight deck, on which armed planes were ready to take-off. The other went off on the hangar deck, where other planes, fueled and armed, were waiting to be taken to the flight deck.

The attacking plane was shot down a moment later, but the bombs, exploding where they did, started a trail of fires and explosions which for hours were to rend and torture the vessel.

The ship was operating as part of a fast carrier task force in the strike against remnants of the Japanese fleet in Japan's inland sea, Nippon's "private lake."

Explosion after explosion followed the initial blasts. Large bombs exploded and hurled men and planes the length of the ship. Smaller bombs, rockets and machine gun ammunition killed dozens who had survived the major explosions. Spreading fires fed by thousands of gallons of high test aviation gasoline added to the holocaust.

RATED EXCELLENT

Raleigh, May 18—(AP)—A Rating of excellent has been given the State College department of military science and tactics. The War Department based the rating on the work, facilities and personnel during the current academic year.

Bodies Floated By Vessel Full Day After Franklin Was Bombed By Japanese

(The following account was written by Alvin McCoy, ACE reporter of the Kansas City Star and the only correspondent aboard the Aircraft carrier U.S.S. Franklin, when it was struck by a lone Japanese bomber May 19 only 66 miles off the coast of Japan. The ship was saved, but more than 1,000 men were killed and injured.)

BY ALVIN MCCOY
Kansas City Star War Correspondent
Distributed By The Asso. Press

Aboard the U.S.S. Santa Fe in the Western Pacific, March 20 (Delayed)—(AP)—A full day after the Carrier Franklin was bombed, bodies floated by us in the sea, dropped from the carrier ahead in a seemingly endless stream as burial services went on interminably.

McCoy and 825 other survivors were removed by the Cruiser Santa Fe a few hours after the disaster. Meanwhile the Franklin's remaining crew fought the seemingly impossible situation to save the stricken ship which had been taken



ATTACK BY DOGS KILLS WOMAN — Mrs. Doretta Zinke (left), ethnologist, lecturer and war worker, died at Miami, Fla., an hour and a half after police said she was attacked by nine pit bulldogs. Manslaughter charges were filed against Joe Munn of Hialeah, owner of a pack of dogs trained for pit fighting. He is shown (right) with one of his dogs en route to a dog pound where all nine were held pending a decision as to their future. (AP Wirephoto).



Police Chief Elbert Lemolne of Hialeah said he tried to get a statement from the dying woman, but she only moaned, "Dogs—dogs—"

Coal Owners, Miners Seek New Contract

By HAROLD W. WARD
Washington, May 18—(AP)—John L. Lewis and anthracite operators sought today to write a few contracts that would boost the daily pay of hard coal miners \$1.37½ and end a three-week strike an agreement this week could send the miners back to work Monday.

The pay figure was suggested as a compromise by Interior Secretary Ickes, who has been in technical control of the mines as solid fuels administrator since President Truman ordered the workings seized May 3.

The 72,000 Pennsylvania anthracite miners have been idle since their contract expired April 30. Lewis has ignored a War Labor Board order to extend the old contract.

Ickes' sudden move late yesterday was viewed with optimism in government quarters. The fact that both sides accepted his proposal as a basis for resuming deadlocked negotiations was considered encouraging.

The Interior Secretary made no recommendations how the wage increase should be distributed among the miners' various demands. Lewis for instance, asked \$1.50 for underground travel time, in addition to other so-called fringe adjustments, including shift differentials and higher vacation allowances.

Some authorities thought the underground or "portal-to-portal" compensation under Ickes' proposed ceiling would amount to between \$1.12½ and \$1.20 per day. In the recently approved bituminous contract, travel pay allowances were augmented by second and third premiums of 4 and 6 cents, respectively and the former \$50 vacation allowance was increased to \$75.

Ickes' proposal was lower than one advanced by Labor Secretary Perkins in her effort to end the negotiations deadlock in New York. This was variously estimated at between \$1.69 and \$1.79 a day, including \$1.50 for underground travel and lunch time.

in Tow and headed away from Japan.

At six o'clock tonight Captain Fitz the Santa Fe announced over the public address system.

"Today," he said, "the Franklin cast off its Tow. I have just received a report that she is able to make 21 knots. We have come 207 miles from where the Franklin was hit, but we are still only 225 miles from places where the Jap airfields are located."

Each minute the Franklin's chances for survival seemed brighter, chances that appeared incredibly slim when she lay wounded off Nippon's shores.

The Franklin was blasted by more than 30 tons of its own bombs and rockets after the Japanese bomber struck it, and it erupted four hours yesterday off the coast of Japan to cause one of the most horrible Naval catastrophes of the war.

Blotted out by smoke towering a mile high when she was hit, wracked by intermittent explosions of her own ammunition for four hours, dead in the sea 60 odd miles

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Nippon Oil Area Killed By Yankees During Raid

Photographs Show Heavy Damages On Honshu

Guam, May 18—(AP)—Superfortresses knocked out Japan's greatest oil storage area, including both the army's and navy's biggest concentrations of fuel storage, in just one full scale raid.

Reconnaissance photographs today disclosed that 85 to 90 per cent devastation was wrought by more than 400 B-29s in their May 10 raid on southeastern Honshu. It was the first of the war directed solely at destroying the major source of the empire's vital supply of gasoline and oil for her warcraft and shipping.

Twelve storage tanks were destroyed and 85 per cent of the target area devastated by B-29s which attacked Tokuyama naval fuel station. The adjoining Tokuyama coal yards and synthetic oil factory—the army's greatest fueling center—were so badly damaged the 21st bomber command spokesman termed them "inoperative." Tokuyama is 48 miles southwest of Kure.

Sixty of 65 storage tanks at the Oshima naval oil storage center, the fleet's largest, were put out of operation. Oshima station is on an island of that name in Tsushima Strait outside the Shimonoseki entrance to the inland sea.

Otake oil refinery, one of the empire's largest, was forced to cease operations. The B-29s covered the target area so effectively that only two small pockets in extreme corners of the plant area remained undamaged. Otake is on the western shore of the inland sea, 27 miles northeast of Tokuyama.

Not one of the B-29s was lost in those raids.

Crewmen reported the latest Superfort attack, on Nagoya yesterday, left the 16-square mile target area a huge, flaming smokepot. More than 500 B-29s dropped 3,500 tons of fire bombs. Reconnaissance photographs of that attack are not yet available.

British Cruiser Is Cut In Two By Queen Mary

London, May 18—(AP)—The British cruiser HMS Curacao, cut in half by the giant liner Queen Mary speeding to elude a German submarine, sank in the Atlantic on October 1, 1942, with a loss of 338 officers and men, the admiralty announced today.

An eye-witness declared that the big troop transport "simply trampled" the 4,200-ton cruiser, which had a normal complement of about 400 men.

Survivors were picked up and taken to a hospital near Glasgow. At the time of the collision, the Queen Mary, 84,000-ton Cunard liner, was carrying 15,000 American troops from the United States toward Scotland. The two vessels collided approximately 20 miles off the Irish coast at a point north-west of Foreland county, Donegal.



HITLER AND SWEETHEART BEFORE FATE OVERTOOK HIM — This is a picture photo of Adolf Hitler and his sweetheart, Eva Braun, at the Nazi leader's Berchtesgaten retreat. The chief of Hitler's secretarial staff now says Eva Braun virtually entered a suicide pact with the fuhrer when she joined him in Berlin during the final siege of the city. (AP Wirephoto).

Nazis Plotted To Take Life Of Eisenhower Of Eisenhower

Paris, May 18—(AP)—One of Supreme headquarters' top security secrets was public today with official disclosure that a picked gang of assassins under the leadership of Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler's henchman, Lt. Col. Otto Skorzeny, had plotted last winter to kill Gen. Eisenhower.

Confirming capture of the giant, 35-year-old political kidnapper, headquarters revealed the plot had the entire Western front in a state of alert for months during and after the Ardennes battle.

Meanwhile, history's biggest manhunt for notorious Nazis still at large was being pressed from Norway to the Bavarian Alps. A war crimes commission official said a decision on what to do with the German military hierarchy probably would be reached at the commission's conference May 31. He said the blacklist was about complete.

Skorzeny, six-foot-four leader of the raiding party which freed Benito Mussolini from Allied custody in Italy in September, 1943, was taken by the 15th regiment, U. S. Third Division, in the Ard Valley.

Most of the story about the Skorzeny plot was submitted to censorship last February and was held up by authorities until release last night.

Months before the Ardennes attack was scheduled, the Nazis set up a special school near Berlin and enrolled German soldiers who spoke English either with American or British accents. After weeks of training by the SS, the men were weeded down to a battalion headed by Skorzeny, who was appointed by personal orders of Hitler and Himmler.

Special small groups in American uniforms were sent deep into rear areas with missions to commit major sabotage and assassinate key American generals. Skorzeny himself was believed to have been elected to kill Eisenhower.

Capture and rigid questioning of some of these men disclosed the general plan to the Americans.

Russian-Jap Dispute Rises Over Island

Moscow, May 18—(AP)—Every Moscow morning newspaper today devoted a third of a page to a letter which the papers said the people of Sakhalin island had sent to Marshal Stalin. The letter declared northern Sakhalin was "an immeasurably Russian island."

Long an irritating question in the relations between Japan and Russia, Sakhalin lies just off Japan. The northern part of the 559-mile long island is Russian. The southern part is held by Japan.

There was no explanation of the prominence given the letter, which said the people of Sakhalin had dedicated themselves to "strengthening the defensive growth of the military might of our homeland."

A dispatch from a Red Star correspondent under the dateline "Transbaikalian Front"—that part of Siberia east of Lake Baikal facing Japanese-ruled Manchuria—reported a successful 20-day meeting of company commanders of "apparently censored" formation to acquaint the officers with new military technique and methods of training.

Kuhn Is Ordered Sent To Germany As Undesirable

Washington, May 18—(AP)—Former German-American bund leader Fritz Kuhn has been ordered deported to Germany as an undesirable alien, the Justice Department announced today.

The order was issued by the Board of Immigration Appeals. The Justice Department said the 49-year-old native of Munich, who was convicted in 1939 of larceny and forgery involving German-American bund funds, will be placed on a boat at a time to be determined by American military authorities in Germany.

After being paroled from Dannemora prison, New York, where he was serving a two and one-half to five year term on the larceny and forgery charges, Kuhn was interned as an enemy alien and sent to Crystal City, Tex., on July 8, 1943.

U. N. Parley Will Conduct Test Ballot

San Francisco, May 18—(AP)—The outspoken opposition of many small nations to the big-power plan for a veto control of future peace-keeping machinery today nears a United Nations conference test vote.

It appears possible that the big powers—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—may accept some modification of the veto where peaceful settlement of disputes is concerned although Russia could block this. But they all stand firmly on the proposal that no force should be used against any nation except when all five agree.

Prospects are that on a show-down the powers can put over the voting formula they want it with the argument that unless they stick together on great international issues of the future no peace-keeping league can hope to prevent war.

As the battle of the veto builds up in one of the key committees, here are other top conference developments:

1. Considerable support, apparently enough to put it over, is forming behind an Australian proposal to pledge the United Nations to respect each other's territorial integrity and political independence. The small nations want this as a protection against possible power land-grabs and also as an approach to defining what constitutes aggression. The big powers seem disposed to accept it.

2. The American delegation and probably others are about ready to risk a rift with Russia, if necessary, by going ahead with United States formula for giving regional groups of nations the right to organize for their mutual defense in event the world league fails to protect them from armed attack.

3. Strong opposition is growing up against a proposal, discussed in some conference committees, to allow nations to limit the areas in which their forces might be used to enforce peace. The big powers particularly are opposed to this. For example, it would have the effect of saying the United States could pledge its peace keeping forces to act in the western hemisphere but nowhere else in the world.

U. S. Marine Unit Fights To Broaden Bridgehead

Three Divisions In Suburbs Of Shuri For Final Test

Guam, May 18—(AP)—The Okinawa campaign is slowly shaping into a decisive phase with the Sixth Marine division battling to broaden a bridgehead in the capital city, Naha, and three divisions steadily closing on the fortress city of Shuri from three sides.

Now 48 days old the Okinawa campaign already ranks as one of the Pacific war's toughest. There still is no evidence suggesting any collapse in the grim defense by an estimated 34,000 Japanese and Okinawan "home guard" survivors of an original garrison force of 80,000 or more troops.

Tenth army pressure against the Japanese "Little Siegfried Line" has been sustained and hard hitting since the Marine 3rd Amphibious Corps took over the western half of the southern front and two freshened army divisions went into the line on the 24th Army Corps sector on the east.

The longer the ground campaign lasts, the longer supply vessels and warships will be exposed to persistent Japanese aerial attacks, in which more than two dozen American vessels have been sunk and a material number damaged.

A second consideration is that Okinawa terrain providing the best base development potentialities is the southern sector below Naha and Shuri.

Okinawa's best airfield, Naha airfield, lies about a mile southwest of Naha across an enclosed harbor. It undoubtedly will be the primary airfield of many projected for Okinawa to mount growing air strikes against the Japanese homeland.

Bombers are ready and waiting for field room on Okinawa, only 325 miles from the southern Japanese home islands, to start the final air neutralization campaign against the enemy.

American forces already have captured Yontan and Katsua airfields in central Okinawa and put them into use, and a few days ago seized Yonabaru airfield on the east coast. They also acquired a four-strip field when they conquered the island, off Okinawa's west coast.

Sir Harry Shows 'Em Up On Brick Laying Allotment

London, May 18—(AP)—Sir Harry Selley, 73-year-old member of parliament, laid 200 bricks in 58 minutes today in the house of commons yard, to support his contention that the government target for brick layers of 200 to 300 a day was "absurdly small."

Sir Harry, who said he had not done any bricklaying in 47 years, exchanged jests with the watching crowd, which included the parliamentary secretary for the ministry of works, George Hicks.

The lawmaker, his face flushed under his derby, stopped only once during the test, and then only a gulp a stein of beer which Hicks thoughtfully had brought along.



JAP PLAYS DEAD, BECOMES FIRST IWO PRISONER — These pictures show three steps in the capture of the first Japanese prisoner on Iwo. At left, he lies partly buried under the island's volcanic ash and plays dead, a party grenaded a few inches from his right hand. Marines detect him breathing, and one offers him a cigarette (center) when he agrees not to resist. Fearing he might be booby trapped, Marines pull him to the edge of the shell hole (right). The Jap had been playing dead for a day and a half. (AP Wirephoto from Leatherneck Magazine).



offers him a cigarette (center) when he agrees not to resist. Fearing he might be booby trapped, Marines pull him to the edge of the shell hole (right). The Jap had been playing dead for a day and a half. (AP Wirephoto from Leatherneck Magazine).

Farmers Will Long Recall Planting Season For 1945 By Just One Word—Rain

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Farmers probably will long remember the 1945 planting season by one word—rain.

They are practically sprouting web feet. Rubber boots are not merely stylish but an absolute necessity amid the deluge.

Rain, rain and still more rain have delayed crops and caused some damage through much of the nation's mid-continent "bread-basket" area, in parts of the east and south, an Associated Press survey disclosed today.

Protest added to the growers' gripes.

Sections of the far west, however, revel in the rain. There the folks like it because they had been threatened by drought.

Experts said only time and nature can determine whether weeks of cold weather and soggy fields will put a serious crimp in wartime hopes for bumper crops and thus retard the nation's food for victory program. There could be good recovery, if that blessed sunshine ever appears, say the experts.

Here are highlights of the soaked situation:
Only 7 percent of the intended corn crop is in the ground in Nebraska, where pastures are also slow. Wisconsin plowing and planting have been delayed.
Ohio orchards and vineyards were hard hit by frost, pastures retarded, plowing delayed. Michigan plants were set far back after considerable frost damage.
Illinois "urgently" needs warm, sunny weather, with soybean and corn planting seriously delayed. Chicago, with 6.48 inches of rain this month, may break the 1883 may record of 7.32 inches.
In Missouri only 5 percent of the corn crop is planted, and early planting could be 25 percent of the planting done. Some Iowa flax and oats were "drowned."