

L.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, July 24, 1945.

On the shore of Japan's inland sea is the naval base of Kure -- rated <sup>the Mikado's</sup> ~~as Japan's~~ Number One stronghold for seapower. The inland sea is land-locked water surrounded by islands -- Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku -- well protected by nature. And there the Japanese fleet <sup>sought</sup> ~~has found~~ refuge -- the remnants of the oncepowerful navy of the Mikado, now badly battered and cut ~~xx~~ down in size. <sup>there</sup> ~~They've been~~ stationed at Kure.

77 Near the naval base stand some large buildings, that dominate the scene -- a vivid landmark. The Imperial naval academy -- the Japanese version of Annapolis, ~~the~~ Number One shrine and center of Jap Imperialism on the ocean.

Today, out of the East, swarmed a mighty fleet of the sky, a thousand planes. They flew from American carriers to Japan, to the inland sea, to the naval base at Kure -- <sup>with their</sup> ~~and they had a~~ rendezvous <sup>over</sup> ~~with~~ the Imperial Naval Academy.

Today's news dispatch from Admiral Halsey's fleet remarks that this was what it calls -- a supreme

insult to the Japanese navy -- the myriad squadrons of American planes using the Jap naval shrine as the landmark <sup>over</sup> ~~at~~ which to rendezvous for an assault designed to knock out what's left of the Japanese fleet.

It was the greatest carrier-based attack on record, as the planes swooped down from a point in the sky above the Imperial naval academy -- dive bombing the war ships in the harbor. All day long the assault ~~was~~ went on -- and the full report is not yet at hand.

Halsey's planes found the Kure Naval base ~~powerfully~~ powerfully defended by flak. One veteran pilot tells of a pillar/ of anti-aircraft fire reaching up into the sky. "It looked like a Christmas tree," said he. ~~It was~~ the most intensive flak that the fliers in the fleet had ever encountered -- and they ran into savage fighter resistance also.

During recent strikes by Halsey's fleet against the Japanese coasts, enemy air opposition had been noticeable for its absence. But today the Jap air force was goaded into battle, goaded by the

"supreme insult" of the American planes rendezvousing above the Imperial naval academy, and by the deadly peril to the warships in the harbor -- ~~most of the~~ remnants of the Japanese fleet. There were dogfights all over the sky.

Ships were hit. Columns of smoke from burning vessels dotted the shining expanse of the bay at Kure. Great havoc was wrought, though the details of this have not yet come in. We have one summarizing dispatch, with returning pilots reporting -- "Weather fine.

Results excellent." *The latest: - at least four Japanese warships heavily blasted,*

And this is only part of the story of a black day for Japan. In addition to the thousand-plane carrier attack against the Kure naval base, more than six hundred B-29s assailed war factories at Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo. To these figures you can add numbers of other land-based bombers operating from Okinawa, and Iwo Jima, bringing the figure for planes hurled against Japan today to a record-breaking total of two thousand.



# BIG THREE

*From*  
At Potsdam there's a denial of a report that came through with a tone of cryptic meaning and ~~portent~~ *an N.B.C. dispatch, around* portent. With all the secrecy ~~on it~~ *around* the Conference of the Big Three, it's only natural to scan the news dispatches closely -- in the belief that correspondents over there, being handcuffed by censorship, are trying to ~~sneak~~ *get* through significant intimations <sup>between the</sup> lines. *N.B.C. From Ray Porter* The dispatch ~~in question~~ stated that part of the American delegation to the Stalin-Truman-Churchill meeting had already <sup>(left)</sup> ~~left~~ Berlin, and that another section of the delegation was leaving soon for what the dispatch called -- "a <sup>surprising</sup> ~~surprising~~ destination." The element of surprise was expressed with cryptic emphasis.

There was in that news story, which got through the Potsdam secrecy, a phrase of a sort to delight the seeker of hidden meanings. It stated that the "surprising destination" had to be concealed because of military security -- and not for political reasons. The contrast of military and political had an interesting sound, because of the attitude of the news correspondents. in



<sup>They</sup>  
Berlin. ~~who~~ have been protesting that there is no need for military security in Europe, now that the war is over, and they charge that the secrecy and censorship over there is entirely political. From that point of view, you would gather that the military secrecy could only apply to a war zone -- and you might draw the inference that the "surprising destination" of the section of the American delegation was a war zone. From there on you can make your own guesses.

Such is the report that draws a denial at Potsdam today. Official sources declare that it has no foundation, and explain that-- yes, some people attached to the American delgation have left, but nobody of importance.

The British, too, issue a denial -- of rumors that the Conference might end by Wednesday, tomorrow. That's the day when Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Labor Leader Clement Attlee, go back to England for the announcement of the results of the British

Parliamentary election several weeks ago. Churchill and Attlee will make the trip ~~back~~ to London; but, the conference will continue. <sup>TP</sup> This ~~conference~~ <sup>meeting</sup> of the Big Three has been complicated by the <sup>at</sup> British election peculiarity, Churchill conferring with Stalin and Truman without knowing whether or not he has lost the battle of the ballots, and whether or not he is still Prime Minister. So what would happen if he should find on Thursday that he has lost -- that the count of the vote, which was delayed because of soldier ballots, has gone against him? That's not considered likely, but if it should be the case, Clement Attlee would become the new Prime Minister -- Attlee who has been a colleague of Churchill in the Potsdam deliberations.

The word in Berlin, however, is that if Churchill should lose, Attlee would not come back to the conference. He would remain in London as the new Prime Minister -- and send Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden to the meeting of the Big Three, ~~with~~ Eden staying on for that purpose.

BERLIN - FOLLOW BIG THREE

We hear of an American change of policy in the occupation of Berlin -- a change from the American practice in other parts of conquered Germany. Hitherto, the United States occupation authorities have sternly forbidden all ~~political~~ political activity among the Germans. The rule has been that meetings of more than five people have been prohibited. And that still is the case in other parts of Germany -- but not Berlin. A dispatch today ~~states~~ <sup>says</sup> that American authorities in the German capital ~~will~~ <sup>are</sup> not only permitting, but are encouraging, German political activity. "We want <sup>Berliners</sup> ~~prisoners~~ to become politically minded," states Colonel Frank Howley, Military Governor of the American occupied sector. And he adds, "there has not been enough good healthy politics here."

*All of which*  
~~That~~ represents a change of American policy; but, ~~it~~ is in harmony with the way the Russians have been running things in Berlin -- ~~they are~~ encouraging the political activity of the anti-Nazi party. <sup>721</sup>



## PETAIN

The trial of Marshal Petain in Paris was less uproarious today than yesterday -- but just as bitter. Former Premier Reynaud, who as the head of the French government at the time of the fall of France, painted <sup>ing that</sup> ~~the~~ portrait with colors of venom. As Marshal Petain listened with ~~an~~ impassive face, Reynaud declared that Petain's vast reputation as the victor of Verdun was a fraud -- that Petain actually wanted to retreat from Verdun and held the line only because he was ordered to.

Reynaud stated that Petain was, in Reynaud's words, "eaten by a desire for power." He charged that the Marshal had been in league with the Nazis since Nineteen Thirty-four, and had made moves to weaken the military <sup>strength</sup> ~~power~~ of France. He quoted Petain as declaring at the time that France would be defeated, and have a Dictator.

He gave a dramatic account of the decision made at ~~Bu~~ Bordeaux <sup>when</sup> ~~at the time~~ the French armies

were collapsing and when the question was -- whether the French government should retire to Africa to continue the war, or surrender to the Nazis. Reynaud, as Premier, wanted to go to Africa, but Marshal Petain insisted that the government should stay and surrender.

*In this he*  
~~Petaine~~ was backed up by *the aged* ~~General~~ Weygand, *also by* ~~and~~ former

Premier Chautemps. Their view was supported by the

*Whereupon*  
French Cabinet, ~~and~~ Reynaud resigned. *He went on*

*to say* ~~He stated~~ today that Petain ~~thereupon~~ offered

to make him French Ambassador to Washington. Reynaud

stated that he refused -- *that brought* ~~and thereupon~~ the name of

President Roosevelt ~~came~~ into the trial. *Reynaud* ~~Chautemps~~

was asked whether it was not true that his appointment

as French Ambassador to Washington had been rejected

by President Roosevelt. He replied: "Roosevelt had

nothing to do with this." Later, in cross-examination

he qualified that by saying: "It is true that Roosevelt

did not want me to represent a government dominated

by Germany."

Another former French Premier testified against Petain today -- Daladier. He was more temperate than ~~Raymond~~ Reynaud, but stated that Petain had objected to proposals to extend the Maginot Line to cover the Belgian frontier -- the weak spot through which the Germans broke. He said that Petain had given assurance that the sector of the Ardennes forest was fortified so well the Germans could not penetrate there -- when in fact that was exactly the point where the Germans did break through, in bringing about the fall of France.

Daladier claimed that Petain urged surrender even before Dunkirk, ~~had come about~~ <sup>but</sup> that was when the Germans were breaking through, ~~but~~ <sup>also</sup> the Belgian army had not yet surrendered; ~~and~~ the British had not yet been forced to make their historic evacuation. Even that early Petain had urged an Armistice with the Nazis.



## TRANSPORTATION

Today brings <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ Senate's suggestion for breaking the transportation jam. The Senate War Investigating Committee urges that seventy-five thousand additional railroad workers be ~~xxx~~ recruited immediately. The committee wants the Army to join with Government agencies in putting additional workers on the railroads. The Army <sup>is</sup> ~~has been~~ asked to release ten thousand experienced railroad men from military service -- the civilian agencies to recruit sixty-five thousand others.

These recommendations follow a statement by Defense Transportation Director Johnson, who told the committee that the re-deployment of the armed forces to the Pacific cannot be completed on schedule with the present manpower on the railroads. There is a shortage of help that must be remedied.

At the same time the committee is negotiating with the army air force in an effort to procure a lot of passenger-type army planes for civilian service in

this country. The committee thinks the Air Forces could turn over a thousand planes suitable for civilian passenger use, ~~and~~ these <sup>to</sup> ~~could~~ be put on the nation's at once - and airlines -- there by helping ~~to~~ break traffic Jam, ~~congestion.~~

MORGENTHAU

Here is light on the resignation of Henry Morgenthau, former Secretary of the Treasury. It comes from the former Secretary himself. He states that he did not resign voluntarily, but at the request of President Truman.

"I would have preferred to stay along until V-J Day," he explains, and adds that his retirement from the Treasury Department -- "was not of my own choosing," <sup>said</sup> ~~says~~ he.

These statements were made at a meeting of the New York State War Finance Committee, with the former Secretary expressing surprise at the general impression -- that he had quit his Treasury<sup>job</sup>/voluntarily. He said he thought that all the correspondence concerning his resignation had been made public -- correspondence that presumably includes the presidential request for his resignation. Morgenthau explained that he did not <sup>want</sup> ~~want~~ the public to gain the impression that he quit while the war was still being fought.



## SOAP

There will be no rationing of soap. This was announced officially today by Secretary of <sup>Agriculture</sup> ~~Labour~~ Anderson. He gives a formal denial of rumors that soap may be placed on the list of rationed articles.

On the contrary, there is to be an increase of the civilian supply of the material so necessary for cleaning up. Secretary Anderson promised that next year civilians will have a hundred million pounds more of the kind of soap used for heavy washing.

The Secretary of Agriculture explained false rumors were touched off by a statement that there would be a large need of soap to be sent to Europe. That was true enough, but it was no reason for the wave of panicky ~~panic~~ buying that started over here.

<sup>The new</sup> Secretary <sup>of Agriculture</sup> ~~Anderson~~ today ~~appeared~~ <sup>appealed</sup> to the American housewives to buy soap in normal quantities.

"It would be a little easier on all of us if people would buy sensibly, or buy only what is needed, instead of starting runs on the ~~xx~~ stores."

## STRIKE

One news dispatch today began with a mystifying line that had me puzzled, <sup>at first</sup> ~~when I looked at it.~~ The news ~~It opened with this: -~~ ~~story began:~~ "This was a walkie-no-talkie day at Warren, Ohio." What could that mean -- a town in a condition of walkie-no-talkie? That was made clear when I read on and noted the fact that Warren, Ohio, right now is having two strikes. One is a bus strike, making it -- walkie. The other is a telephone strike -- no talkie.

That's how it is at Warren, Ohio. As for me right now, it's no talkie, just walkie. Oh just a moment, here's another,

## PRISONERS

In New York a hundred and fifty former prisoners of war of the Nazis gathered at a luncheon sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. They talked and they reminisced, and you'd have thought that it would have been grim and cheerless -- recalling the bleak ordeals of Nazi prison camps.

But there can be humor even in that, and there was a howl of laughter when Y.M.C.A. Director Tracy Strong read a quotation from a letter -- a letter a prisoner of war in a Nazi camp had received from <sup>his</sup> a girl back home. She wrote: "Darling, I couldn't wait.

I married your father. Love -- Mother." Amid the <sup>chorus</sup> ~~course~~ of laughter one former prisoner of war shouted:

"That guy was in my camp -- it really happened."

"Darling, I couldn't wait. I married your father. Love -- Mother."

And now, Hugh, for you we wait.