

One of the important events in postwar Europe occurred today -- the organization of the Allied Supreme Control Commission for the government of the conquered Germany.

The Commission met for the first time in Berlin -- Marshal Zhukov representing Soviet Russia, General Eisenhower the United States, Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery Great Britain, General de Tassigny ~~France~~ France.

The Control Commission issued a statement of the general principles under which Germany will be administered -- for a long time to come.

Germany, as it exists under Allied domination, will ~~be~~ consist of territory ^{which was} under the Berlin government in Nineteen Thirty-Seven -- before the Hitler series of grabs, which began with the Nazi march into Austria.

Any revision of German frontiers, as they existed then, will be left to the future -- to be decided upon in a general peace agreement. This applies

to the slice of German territory which is supposed to go to Poland.

The control commission today reaffirmed the arrangement that is already in operation - the division of Germany between the four powers. Soviet Russia occupies eastern Germany, Great Britain the northwestern part of the country, the United States the southwestern part, and France a western section of Germany. The exact boundaries of the respective spheres occupied by the four powers are not made public, and it is noted that the extent of this section under the control of France has not been decided upon.

Austria, which is not included in Germany under control, is to be administered in somewhat similar fashion. An Allied Commission is expected to be organized in Vienna in about two weeks. The case of Austria is different from that of Germany in the sense that an attempt will be made to put Austria on a self-governing basis as soon as possible.

LEVANT

In London Prime Minister Churchill responded today to the French charge that the trouble in Syria was stirred up by the British. This he denied with full Churchillian emphasis.

One French accusation, as made by General DeGaulle, was that the British were trying to nose out the French in Syria. Churchill declared that, quite to the contrary, the British were only trying to smooth out the trouble between the French and the Syrians.

He stated that the British had warned De Gaulle that if he tried to reinforce French troops in Syria there would be trouble with the native people. DeGaulle went ahead and reinforced - and there was trouble

SHIPS TO RUSSIA

Here is something authoritative about United States and British warships turned over to Soviet Russia. In the House of Commons today Prime Minister Churchill disclosed that the Soviets got fifteen naval vessels, including a British battleship and an American cruiser. These were turned over to the Russians instead of part of the surrendered Italian fleet.

Churchill stated that when the Italian navy came over to the side of the Allies, Moscow demanded some of the warships. This was not conceded because the Italian ships were designed for operations in the Mediterranean, and not for the severe northern climate like that of the Allied arctic supply line to Russia. Moreover, said Churchill today, the Italian fleet had surrendered honorably, which was helpful to the Allied cause.

He said Great Britain did not want to see Italy deprived of her Navy, and so the proposal was made that the Soviet claim for Italian warships be filled with an equivalent number of British and American

warships. Churchill himself advanced the suggestion and president Roosevelt agreed to it. So the deal was made at the Teheran Conference.

The Soviets got the British battleship "Royal Sovereign", and the American cruiser - Milwaukee -- the remainder of the Russian demand being filled out with British destroyers, submarines and other craft.

These vessels were given to the Soviets on loan, but Churchill indicated today that Russia will keep them indefinitely.

The latest air assault against Japan was delivered by nearly five hundred B-29s which dropped thirty-three hundred tons of incendiary bombs. The target was the great port of Kobe, which was swept by ~~flame~~ flame. Returning pilots tell of smoke billowing up to twenty-five thousand feet - *nearly five miles.*

Eight super-fortresses were lost in the bombing of Kobe, where the Japanese anti-aircraft fire was accurate and where swarms of enemy planes tried vainly to protect the all important harbor.

I knew [REDACTED] Kobe very intimately for I spent many weeks there while hunting whales for the American Museum of National History off the tiny island of Oshima, only a short distance away. The harbor is a vast, roughly semi-circular, bite out of the land, so wide that a cement breakwater had to be built across the entrance to protect it from the summer typhoons that sweep up the coast out of the Formosa Channel.

The city sprawls along the shore in a long, narrow line. Just behind it, a range of mountains rise in a series of ragged peaks covered with a green blanket of luxurious vegetation. The highest elevation is called Roko-San which means "the sixth mountain".

English residents had built a golf course and a clubhouse way up there in the clouds; also a lovely ^{Japanese} shrine, the "Moon Temple" nestled into the very summit. I used often to visit a great bronze Buddha, the second largest in Japan, that sat placidly in a courtyard in the center of the city, watching the changing currents of history pass before its half-closed eyes.

What made Kobe such an important military target were the steel works and navy yard, drydocks, capable of taking the largest war vessels; repair shops, and ship building plants covered many acres. Not only was it Japan's greatest seaport, and the sixth largest city, but it was an important railway transfer center. On the way from Tokyo to the south, one changed trains there just as we do in New York, on the trip from Boston to Washington. I say Kobe "was" a city, advisedly because like Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagoya it is a thing of the past. The only great port remaining is - Nagasaki. Doubtless that will be next on the list.

OKINAWA

On Okinawa American troops today were in control of perhaps the most important objective on the island -- the Naha air field. This was half captured yesterday, and was rapidly being occupied today.

The battle for Okinawa is in its final stage, with American drives slicing up the remainder of the Japanese garrison. Last reports show the Japs to be holding only some thirty-two square miles, and this area is being swiftly reduced.

The opinion about the state of affairs on Okinawa is unanimous -- the Tokyo radio today conceding the American conquest of the island. And Admiral Nimitz states -- that "the principal enemy forces on Okinawa have been destroyed."

MITSCHER

It was disclosed today that changes are being made in American ~~war~~ warships as a result of the Japanese suicide plane attacks. This was stated by Vice Admiral Mitscher, Commander of Task Force Fifty-Eight - which has hurled such powerful blows against the enemy homeland. Admiral Mitscher said the Jap suicide fliers have made it, in the words of the dispatch, "necessary to re-design some equipment aboard United States Navy ships".

We are not told exactly what the changes are, but it is believed that a heavier weight of anti-aircraft fire has been found necessary - more guns to shoot down the suicide planes.

Speaking of the menace, Admiral Mitscher said: "It is daily being reduced, and indications are that it ~~is~~ will be further reduced". He repeated the thing we have heard all along - that no large warships have been sunk by the suicide planes, although there have been losses among the smaller craft.

Admiral Mitscher spoke of the new Jap fighter planes that have been mentioned in the news. These are described as much improved, and there have been some intimations that the new Jap fighters can out-perform our own American carrier planes, the Corsairs. This today was denied by the Admiral, who stated, "the Japs have highly improved fighter types, but the Corsair is better than anything they can throw into combat".

The first of the war agencies to be terminated came to an official end today - when President Truman abolished the O.C.D. Well, the Office of Civilian Defense, which was organized to guard against air raids, never did have much to do - with all its air raid wardens. No Nazi bomb hit America - and, with the European war over, precautions against air raids seem less necessary than ever -- the Pacific being that broad.

White House Secretary Ross was asked today whether the abolition of the O.C.D. meant that the President doesn't think much about those Japanese threats of balloon warfare; that is -- the Jap talk about sending suicide balloons against our West Coast. The Presidential Secretary replied - that the order spoke for itself. It does. - We are not seen mustering any air raid wardens against the Jap suicide balloons!

CHILDREN

In California today the State Senate received a much debated bill already passed by the Lower House of the Legislature. And this bill was today denounced in scathing terms by the Army newspaper - ~~the~~ Stars and Stripes. It is a measure that would permit wives of soldiers overseas to offer children for adoption without their husbands being notified - children born to the wives during the absence of their husbands and of which the husbands are not the fathers. "Stars and Stripes" speaks bitterly of what it calls - "a lunatic fringe of editorialists and governmental bird brains".

The Army newspaper states: "Of the millions of separated husbands and wives of World War Two, the majority are playing the game straight. Some of the remainder have practiced deceit. It is a problem between the man and his wife, and nobody else's business". And the Army newspaper concludes: "By all that is holy, let's not have a sovereign state joining in a lie".

FALCONS

It is always beguiling to find something old introduced into this modern war of mechanism - something that belongs to another day. Bows and arrows would be interesting, and what about -- falconry? That's medieval - hunting with falcons. It belongs to the days of knighthood, castles, chivalry - when Lords and Ladies rode with falcons perched on their wrists.

From London today we have a disclosure of falconry in the present war. Twenty-~~five~~ five of the hawk~~es~~ especially trained, are being sent to the Pacific war. They will be used to intercept enemy pigeons carrying messages.

London states that these falcons were in action in the European war. "They are believed" says the dispatch, "to have saved thousands of lives by intercepting pigeon-borne messages".

The way they work is this: Observers report pigeons bound for an enemy point - and, when the word comes in, the falcons are released. They soar to a great height, then dive down onto their prey - exactly as falcons did in the days of the knights and their ladies.

MURDER

New York has a murder case de luxe -- a crime on Park Avenue, and the only clue is the name of an opera singer who was once a tenor at New York's Metropolitan.

The victim was Albert E. Langford, a sixty-three year old textile magnate. He was shot by two men who appeared at the Park Avenue apartment and asked for his wife -- saying that they wanted to talk to her about Rafael Diaz. Diaz at one time was a Metropolitan Opera House tenor. He had been a protege of Mrs. Langford, and he died two years ago.

The husband went to his wife, who stated that she did not want to talk to the two men. He returned to tell them this -- and was shot down, the killers-vanishing.

WEST POINT

A record was established today at West Point where the largest class in the history of the Military Academy was graduated. Eight hundred and fifty-three cadets got diplomas, presented to them by General Omar Bradley - just back from victory in Europe.

West Point graduation, by a coincidence, comes at about the time of the anniversary of D-Day. Tomorrow, June Sixth, it will be just a year since the armies of the Western Allies swarmed across the English Channel and drove onto the beaches of Normandy. On D-Day last year there was a turn of drama in the fact that -- as General Eisenhower launched the invasion, his son was graduating from West Point. This year General Omar Bradley presides over the West Point graduation just one day short of the first anniversary of the D-Day invasion, in which he was one of the foremost commanders.