

SUPERFORTRESS

P.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Sept. 19, 1945.

Well, the big flight is not Tokyo to Washington, but Tokyo to Chicago. The latest from the War Department is that none of the three B-29s that took off for a non-stop flight from the capital of Japan to our own national capital, has been able to make it. Earlier word was that two of the Superfortresses were running out of gas, and would have to land before getting across the United States. Now we hear that all three are stopping short. One has already landed ~~at~~ Chicago, and the other two are due to come to ~~k~~ earth at the windy ^{almost} city any time now.

In spite of the failure to reach Washington, it has been a tremendous flight.

After leaving Japan, they ran into a headwind which impeded progress. ~~a bit, but the indications were~~ *And that's why* ~~that further on the wind conditions would be reversed -~~ *they didn't get all the way to* ~~Washington, - - headwinds, all~~ ~~xxxxx a tailwind to blow them on. The headwind caused~~ *the way.* ~~an extra consumption of gas, but the tailwind promised~~ ~~to compensate for this. However, ~~two of the big planes~~~~ ~~ran out of gas and couldn't make Washington, so they had~~ ~~to land in Detroit.~~

This great flight is a new illustration that we have an Air Force of flying generals; - one of the big B-29s in the flight today ^{was} commanded by Lieutenant General Barney Giles, deputy chief of Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific. Another by Major General Curtis Lemay, chief-of-staff of the Twentieth Air Force. And the third - commanded by Brigadier General Emmett ^{"Rosie"} O'Donnell, ~~Rosie~~ ~~O'Donnell~~, commander of the Seventy-Third Bombing Wing of the Twentieth Air Force. All three are crack flyers,

as I had occasion to note when I was out that way in July. I flew with General Giles -- had a lesson from him in flying a B-29, from Iwo Jima to Guam. And I visited General Le May on Guam, and Rosie O'Donnell on Saipan.

Today's flight finally eliminates the unique distinction of that eminent veteran of the old days - Clyde Pangborn. Long before the war, Pang flew the Pacific nonstop -- straight across from Japan to a swamp in the State of Washington. That feat has remained unequalled until this greater flight -- from Tokyo, bound for Washington, D.C. -- along the great circle route -- over Alaska. But it still isn't the record for distance. The nonstop mark made in Nineteen thirty-eight by two British Royal Air Force planes, flying direct from Egypt to Australia, a distance of seven thousand, one hundred and fifty-eight miles, still stands.

One observation that may be made tonight is this, that peacetime certainly has come, when a long-distance flight between continents once again becomes the headline news of the day.

OCCUPATION

President Truman today discussed General MacArthur's declaration that in a year we will need only two hundred thousand troops for the occupation of Japan. The President noted that MacArthur had changed his views drastically during the past month - estimating only thirty days ago that we would need five hundred thousand men in Japan. MacArthur no doubt changed his opinion as the situation changed over there - but the President today said that the final estimate of the size of the occupation forces cannot be determined accurately until next ~~Spring~~ Spring. ~~He added that the need for troops in Japan has nothing to do with the speed of demobilization~~ that ~~demobilization~~ the Army intends to muster out soldiers as fast as it can.

Today's presidential statement is taken to be a mild rebuke of the MacArthur estimate of the number of troops he'll need - only two hundred thousand at the end of a year. And we have the same tone from the State

Department - Assistant Secretary Dean Acheson ^{telling} speaking

He told a press conference today that he was, in his own words, "surprised that anybody can foresee at this time the number of forces that will be necessary in Japan."

~~And Dean Acheson added that American policy toward Japan remains unchanged - Japan being rendered incapable of making war for years to come.~~

In Washington political circles, MacArthur's statement about two hundred thousand troops is regarded ~~as political dynamite, with wide popular demand that the boys be sent home.~~ ^{coming as it does along with the}

~~In Congress today, the MacArthur position was defended by Senator Chandler of Kentucky. He made a remark in favor of the boys coming home - and that drew a burst of applause from a gallery packed with G.I's.~~

Meanwhile in Tokyo, General MacArthur today suspended another Japanese newspaper - the Nippon Times, which is published in English. The Nippon Times gets a

twenty-four hour suspension because it printed a stor
without first submitting copy to the American censors.
This is the second Yokyo paper that MacArthur has
penalized, the Daily Asahi having drawn a suspension
yesterday.

JAP OFFICERS

We have heard frequent rumors of a Japanese military uprising to stop the surrender, but everything hitherto has been vague -- mere reports that ~~Japanese~~ officers revolted and tried to prevent the Emperor from yielding to the Allies. Now we have an account in some detail -- and a dramatic story it is. It relates that the uprising against the surrender almost succeeded, and was only stopped by the bold action of General Tanaka, Commander of the Japanese Army in the Tokyo area.

Today's version comes from the ~~Japanese~~ *Yomiuri Tokyo* newspaper MAINICHI, which tells of events on the night of August fifteenth. The Mikado and his advisors had made the decision to surrender, a decision that was to be announced on the following day. Word of this got around in military circles, and a group of young officers determined to intervene. Notwithstanding the atomic bomb, these fanatics wanted Japan to resist to utter ~~annihilation~~ annihilation.

In a concerted move they went to the Imperial palace and attacked the guards. Lieutenant General Mori, Military Commander at the palace, refused to collaborate -- and they shot him dead. They imprisoned other officers and took control of the gates of the palace grounds. One party went in and seized General Hasumuma, aide-de-camp to the Emperor. They went about looking for the Imperial household minister, and the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, but these got away. Their ultimate purpose was to burst in on the Mikado himself and, in their words -- "persuade him to reconsider." Just what would have happened if they had succeeded is conjectural -- the war continued perhaps with more atomic bombs, or -- ~~xxx~~ civil war in Tokyo.

Word got to General Tanaka at his military headquarters and he flew into a rage: "I am going;" he shouted, "I'll kill all of them."

He put on his uniform, and drove at breakneck speed to the palace. There, revolver in hand, he stormed in shouting to the rebels: "I am your commander-in-chief." That made them hesitate. ^{And} ~~Then~~ Tanaka harangued them, giving them what today's account calls a three-hour lecture on loyalty to the Emperor.

The Tokyo newspaper states ^{that} four of the young officers committed suicide on the spot. The others yielded. And so General Tanaka saved the surrender -- ^{and} later on he committed suicide.

When ~~that~~ day came, the time for making ~~the~~ public the Imperial decision -- the surrender of Japan was announced. *That's today's story from the Japanese themselves.*

ATOMIC BOMB

We have a new fantastic story about the atomic bomb, a statement that the elemental explosion at Hiroshima was followed by a devastating windstorm - a violent tempest produced by the blast of the atom. This comes from a Jesuit missionary, Father Siēmes, who was in the outskirts of Hiroshima when the bomb exploded. In an account written for the New York World-Telegram, the missionary gives a vivid picture of the fantasmal burst of the bomb - and tells of the hurricane wind that followed.

"I was smoking an after-breakfast pipe at the mission," the ^{priest}~~missionary~~ relates, "and was lazily looking out of a window toward Hiroshima. An enormous flash split the sky. Five seconds later, the whole front of my house caved in, and I found myself bleeding from splinters of glass."

He tells how he got himself out of the ruins and saw injured people, all of them suffering from burns caused by radiation. Then at the mission, a rescue party

was formed to look for four Jesuit priests who had been in Hiroshima, nearer to the explosion. These were found, two of them seriously injured. They told of the fantastic violence of the atomic burst, and described the wind that followed.

"They said," relates Father Siemes, "that about half an hour after the blast, there was a severe hurricane - probably caused by the extreme heat. It was of such great force," he goes on, "that it lifted trees, and even water from the rivers, into the air."

The account states that people were hurled into the river. The level of the water dropped, and then the river rose again - all combined with the blowing of unearthly wind that followed the blast.

AIR FORCES

Many have been asking the question - what kind of a peace-time Air Force should the United States maintain during the coming years? An answer is given today by Lieutenant General Eaker, Deputy Commander of the sky squadrons of the Army. ^{His answer: -} A small Air Force, and a mighty good one. General Eaker puts it in these words: "A relatively small but highly efficient Air Force capable of rapid expansion in time of need."

General Eaker in ^a ~~the~~ report to the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, urged that new developments must be carefully considered - developments like the atomic bomb. Our peacetime Air Force must be kept thoroughly modern - small, but up to the minute.

That sounds like plenty of good sense. I myself remember Army aviation conditions during the years that followed the last war. People complained that we failed

to maintain a big Air Force with thousands of planes - but that was not the real trouble. It was not a matter of size. For a while, in fact, we had too much equipment - old stuff that should have been junked. It was a burden, a drag on progress.

I recall hearing Lieutenant General Doolittle tell a story that bears sharply on this point - a tale of wild thrills and adventures. A young lieutenant back in the 'Twenties, Jimmy Doolittle was a pilot in the Mexican border patrol, and he said that never in the history of aviation had so many planes been cracked up, wild and wooly crashes all the time. Were the pilots punished for wrecking the planes? Not at all - they were almost thanked. They were flying old and obsolete crates, and their commanders knew that the only way they could get anything new, was to smash up the old.

FOREIGN MINISTERS

The Council of Foreign Ministers in London came to an agreement today on the subject of Trieste. The decision is to place that Italian port under the control of an international regime, Trieste to be an open harbor, free to all nations. This represents a back-down by Soviet Russia - which had been supporting Yugoslav

claims to Trieste. Earlier news today from the Council of Foreign Ministers had been darkly pessimistic, the Council having succeeded in agreeing on not one single important question. Now, however, there is agreement on one of the most important - Trieste. And that brightens things considerably.

Both the British and the French are showing concern about Soviet intentions in the direction of North Africa, Foreign Commissar Molotov having indicated yesterday that Russia would like to be made trustee over ^{some} Italian territory in North Africa.

One comment today was that it's about the same as if

HAW HAW

In an historic London court, Old Bailey, two gestures were made today - two motions of the right hand. One appeared to be a Nazi salute - the other was the sign of the Cross. This occurred in the final act of the trial

Tolson
of Lord Haw Haw - the British traitor who did Nazi propaganda during the war. ~~He~~ was found guilty of treason, and sentenced to hang.

The verdict was a foregone conclusion when Justice Sir Frederic Tucker ruled that it didn't matter whether or not William Joyce, known as Lord Haw Haw, was technically an American citizen - born in Brooklyn. That had been the chief point made by the defense. The judge reverted to the fact that Joyce had gone to Nazi Germany on a British passport, and gave the opinion that the use of the passport made him responsible to the laws of Great Britain. Because of the passport, he owed allegiance to the Crown, and was liable to conviction for treason. After that, it took the jury only twenty-five

minutes to bring in a verdict of guilty, and the judge then sentenced him to hang.

Lord Haw Haw, a small and unimpressive individual, took it calmly. As he was led out of the courtroom, he threw ^{up} his right hand ~~up~~ in what people thought was a Nazi salute. Nearby his younger brother, who had testified in his behalf, made the sign of the Cross.

The only recourse left to Lord Haw Haw is a plea to a court of criminal appeals - and possibly a plea to the House of Lords.

SUPREME COURT

The Senate today confirmed the nomination of

Republican
^
Senator Burton to the Supreme Court. This was the

promptest kind of action, President Truman having made the nomination late yesterday. The Senate vote was unanimous, and was accompanied by expressions of lavish praise.

Senator Burton (of Ohio) is a Republican, the first Republican being nominated to the Supreme Court in fifteen years. However, the G.O.P. joy is not entirely unadulterated, because Burton's place in the Senate will be filled by a Democratic governor. He, inevitably, will name a Democrat, and that will increase the Democratic majority in the Senate by one vote.

STRIKE

On the historic strike front, the Union is trying to bring the crisis to an end - before the government steps in with its new unified labor department. This afternoon officials of the Automobile Workers' Union held a conference with local union leaders for the purpose of ending the strike at a plant making the necessary part for the Ford Motor Company - the walkout that has halted Ford production.

~~There isn't much new about the union demand for a thirty per cent increase of wages in the automobile industry - with the threat of an all-around automobile strike in the offing.~~

In Cleveland oil workers are out tonight, taking part in the clamor ~~th~~ for that 30% raise.

MOVIES

The Motion Pictures have a new Czar - succeeding Will Hays, who resigned today. For twenty-three years Hays, one-time Postmaster General of the United States, exercised control over the ethics of motion pictures - keeping the movies pure. His successor is Eric Johnston, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, who was in the headline^s some while ago for his trip to Soviet Russia. Eric Johnston, in accepting the big movie job, placed emphasis on the value of motion pictures as a vehicle for selling America and American

ideals to the world. And, of course, he'll have the same chore Will Hays had, to keep them pure.

And that just naturally brings me to you, Hugh!