

JAPAN

C.S. - Sumoco. Thursday, August 9, 1945.

There was high tension in all newspaper offices in America today. The Japanese ^{official} news agencies ~~yes~~ urged all its subscribers to stand by for an important announcement, ~~which~~ ^{— one that} might come at any moment. ~~After this announcement from Tokyo was half past eight this morning, Eastern Wartime. This was beamed, over the~~ ^{by Tokyo} radio throughout Asia, and our monitors caught the message. Naturally, the expectation was that the important release would be the announcement of the surrender of ^{Japan.} ~~the Japan.~~ But, after hours of ~~futile~~ waiting, no ~~such~~ announcement ~~came.~~ ^{has come. Not yet.}

Instead, Tokyo broadcast the news that the Executive Committee of the Japanese Totalitarian Party, the Japan Political Association, had met in an emergency conference to consider the Russian declaration of war. Later, the President of that Association asked for a conference with the leaders of the Army and the Government.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight, for the first time since the fall of Germany, we have the story of ^{huge} ~~great masses~~ of land forces engaged in a great battle. The Far Eastern legions of the Soviet Union ^{have} struck at the famous Kwantung army of the Mikado in Manchuria [^] before dawn this morning. ^{Tonight's word is that} They cut through ^{the Jap} ~~Japanese~~ defense lines and advanced as much as thirteen ~~and a half~~ miles. ~~in one of the historic moments of the great war.~~

So, ^{once again} ~~now~~ we have the spectacle of two great army groups, each ~~of them~~ supposed to be the last word in combat efficiency, each of ~~them~~ more or less ~~an~~ unknown ^{potential} ~~quantity~~. Their actual strength, power and capacity are [^] unproved [^] [^] ~~and represent~~ ^{so far as there is} an element of mystery in this new ^{Second World War} phase of the ~~conflict~~. The Kwantung army is supposed to ^{include} ~~be~~

the cream of the Mikado's forces. The Far Eastern army
of the Soviet Union, we know, has been ^{waiting for a long time} waiting for this
moment. ^{Now do} ~~with avidity~~. The Russians ~~do not~~ underestimate the
Kwantung ^{Army} ~~outfit~~, but they are confident they can beat
[↑] ~~them~~. [↑] ~~And there seems a possibility~~ that ~~the great~~ Marshal
Voroshilov may ^{be in} ~~take~~ command on that Far Eastern front.
He has been in command of ~~the~~ Soviet troops ⁱⁿ ~~occupying~~
Hungary. A dispatch from Budapest ^{says} ~~reports that~~ he left
there, ~~quite~~ suddenly, ~~yesterday~~.

The Russians jumped across the Manchurian
frontier on a front ^{of over a} ~~one~~ thousand, two hundred ^{miles} ~~and twenty~~
~~five miles long~~. They struck at three main points in the
Vladivostok area; ^{and} ~~they~~ crashed ^{through the heavily fortified} ~~the~~ Japanese defense line,
~~which is heavily fortified there~~. Near Khabarovsk,
in the north, they crossed the Amur and Ussuri River.
In the west they ^{took by storm} ~~stormed and took~~ an important frontier
station at Manchouli.

In the crossing of the rivers, ^{we hear} they were helped
by the powerful fleet they have on the Amur. ^{And,} ~~River,~~ They
captured a city thirty-nine miles southwest of
Khabarovsk, ^{as well as} ~~and~~ several villages. ^{TP} The Japanese defense
line that they stormed in the west, ^{by the way,} was based on the
ancient wall built by Genghis Khan four centuries ago.

Soviet bombers acted as spearheads for the ~~Red~~ ^{And, Stalin's planes} ~~Red~~
ground forces, ^{and} ~~and~~ raided Harbin, the great ^{Tap} ~~base of~~
~~the Japanese~~ in ~~the~~ middle ~~of~~ Manchuria. They also
bombed Hsingking, the capital, ^{as well as} ~~and~~ Korean ports on the
Sea of Japan.

~~This great battle in Manchuria is definitely a~~
~~fight to the finish. Of course there can be only one~~
~~outcome, but it will be a fierce, deadly and costly~~
~~affair.~~

LEAD CHINA

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CHINA

Tonight's ^{detailed} report from China comes ^{direct} from our own

Lieutenant General Albert Wedemeyer, commander of the

United States Army Forces on the continent ^{of Asia}, ~~It includes~~ ~~he gave us~~

the news that a division of Chinese paratroopers, trained

by American officers, were dropped right across the

Japanese line of retreat, their retreat from south China

to the north. This happened more than a week ago, but

it now serves as effective cooperation with the Russian

attack on Manchuria.

~~There is one rather astonishing hint in this~~

~~report.~~ The United Press story has it that this operation

was carried out in preliminary cooperation with Russia's

then anticipated attack on Manchuria. That conflicts with

the story we have from Washington that Russia's declarati

of war took our top ranking officials in Washington by

surprise. But, General Wedemeyer says that cooperation

of our high command in China with Russia for months has

been as close as it has been with ~~Mountbatten's~~ Mountbatten's staff in the southeast Asia command.

The word is that
~~one way or that~~
the liaison between the Americans and Russians ~~is the~~ *has been*
exceedingly close. And, that
~~closest in history~~ before the Russians crossed the Manchurian border, they gave our officers complete information about their plans.

General Wedemeyer adds that twenty commando battalions are being trained and equipped by Americans and that others are already on their way to the front.

The first paratroop regiments came to earth near Hengyang, on a branch of the railroad from Canton to Hankow. ~~Wedemeyer~~ *Wedemeyer* prophesied that the Japanese will try to withdraw to the north as fast as they can move their equipment. His first objective is to prevent this.

Another Chinese column is advancing north of Kweilin, mopping up pockets of Japanese ~~as it goes~~ *as it proceeds,*
in fact
That column is already thirty-three miles beyond Kweilin. *Chinese column*
Still a third has captured the city of Kungcheng, having

pushed ahead thirty-five miles from Pinglo.

The Japanese are trying to strengthen their hold and widen the area they occupy at Hangchow Bay. The Chinese are fighting them ^{there} at three points.

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PACIFIC

B-29s and carrier planes today continued to blast Japan. No fewer than twelve hundred dive bombers, torpedo planes and fighters took off from the flat-tops of Halsey's Third fleet, and struck at everything they saw that was moving on the island of Honshu.

The B-29s flew over Amagasaka, near Osaka - paying a call on a big oil refinery and several tank farms. There were eighty B-29s taking part in this -- dropping demolition bombs. According to Tokyo, still another formation of a hundred or more Superforts went to Tokyo and bombed its industrial suburbs.

American warships also steamed boldly to within ten miles of the Japanese coast to shell Kamaishi, on northern Honshu. A big steel town, Kamaishi was one of the first to be bombarded when Halsey began his major offensive on July Fourteenth.

Today's story from Guam reports that Vice Admiral McCain and his carrier planes found good hunting. That they met fairly light flak and pounded seven targets. They also destroyed a large number of aircraft, on the ground, that the Japs had been hoarding.

As the planes of the Third Fleet returned to their carriers, the Japs staged another suicide attack - kamikazis coming in like shells - through the orange haze. That's the way it's described. The carriers luckily maneuvered so they were not hit. One Jap crashed his kamikazi into the water a few yards from a carrier. That was the closest call. Also it was the first time during the present cruise of the Third Fleet, that the Jap suicide planes tried to break through - the first time since their big attack off Okinawa.

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Today's raids, by our people, brought damage to eleven more enemy cities and six Japanese industrial areas.

BOMB

~~Our high command gave~~ The Japanese ^{got} another warning today: ^{that we} ~~Our armed forces~~ will continue to use the atomic bomb again and again, until ^{Japan gives in} ~~the Mikado's men stop this~~ ~~useless war.~~

Planes based on Guam flew over the ^{Japanese} home islands of ~~Japan~~ today, and scattered ^{ing} some three million leaflets. ~~Printed in Japanese,~~ ^{writing} they urged the plain people to petition ~~the~~ Emperor Hirohito to surrender at once, and unconditionally. ^{Also} ~~It~~ ^{only} notified them that two of their cities, Hiroshima, and ~~later~~ Nagasaka, had ~~already~~ been ~~partially~~ ^{almost} wiped off the face of the earth. ^{That} Unless they give in, ^{all} their ~~other~~ cities will ^{get the same fate} ~~be similarly~~ ~~disintegrated.~~

^{TP} ~~It is now established that~~ The first atomic bomb ^{did} ~~used in history~~ destroyed sixty per cent of Hiroshima. ^{Today's} ~~The~~ leaflet informed the Japanese that this had been ~~in~~ accomplished by one small bomb, and it used

the words, "This awful fact is one for you to ponder and we solemnly assure you it is grimly accurate." ^{TP} The leaflet ~~then~~ urged the Mikado's people, ^{that} if they still have any doubts, ~~to ask what~~ ^{just to enquire as to what} happened to Hiroshima.

~~Although the Japanese howled protests after the bombing of Hiroshima, their broadcasts for the last twenty four hours have entirely failed to mention the bomb that fell on Nagasaki. As a matter of fact, they have stopped talking about the destruction and death at Hiroshima.~~

FOLLOW ATOMIC BOMB

Among the many questions raised about the atomic bomb is the one about how safe it is to live within the vicinity of its manufacture.

Today Colonel K. D. Nichols, commanding officer at the atomic bomb project in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, allayed our ~~XXXX~~ apprehension on this, ^{said he:} ~~respect, saying:~~ "Adequate safeguards have been taken to make an atomic explosion impossible." He reassures us that the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ seventy-five thousand residents of Oak Ridge and those in the ninety square mile vicinity have nothing to fear from the ^{atomic bomb,} ~~terrible weapon.~~

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TRUMAN

~~President Truman's radio talk tonight should add a most interesting footnote to history~~ ^{TP} White House

Press Secretary Charles G. Ross said today that ~~the~~ ^{Truman tonight} President will tell us something about the events leading up to ^{Russia's declaration of war,} ~~Stalin's consent to join the Allies in the Pacific.~~

~~Maybe he~~ ^{TP} ~~will tell us one thing we would like to know, and that is whether~~ ^{le} Stalin promised President

Roosevelt at Yalta that he would bring the Soviet Union ^{on Japan after the} ~~into the war after Germany was defeated~~ ^{of Germany?} ~~Whether or no,~~ ^{That's one question, Mr.}

~~President~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{so we hear} Truman went to Potsdam last month, confident that the Russians would join us against Japan,

~~That was one of the big questions to be settled at the latest conference of the Big Three.~~ As Secretary Byrnes

announced last night, one of the first things Mr. Truman did at Potsdam was to present a memorandum to Stalin,

^{containing} ~~That included~~ these words: "It seems to me that under the terms of the Moscow Declaration and the provisions of the

Charter, it would be proper for the Soviet Union to indicate its willingness to consult and cooperate with other great powers now at war with Japan, with a view to joint action on behalf of the community of nations to maintain peace and security."

We do not know what Stalin replied to this memorandum. ~~But~~, there were indications in Washington today that the declaration of war in Moscow yesterday *might have come as* ~~was~~ a surprise to ^{most of our} ~~the~~ top officials in Washington. The *story in Washington* ~~belief in the capital~~ is that the Russians had not been informed that we were ~~virtually~~ ready to ~~spring~~ the atomic bomb [!] ~~on Japan.~~

Pres. Truman ~~will also say something more about~~ ~~the atomic bomb.~~ ~~He~~ had a conference today ~~for thirty~~ ~~minutes~~ with Secretary of State Byrnes, War Secretary Stimson and four of the men who were principally responsible for perfecting the atomic bomb. *So no doubt he will talk about that.*

SERVICEMEN REACTION

At the
~~Our boys on the fighting fronts, on ships, and~~
in planes, received the news of Russia's entry into the
war with one uppermost thought - now they ~~would be home~~
all the sooner! ~~than they had expected!~~ This good news, so soon
after ~~the advent of the atomic bomb,~~ was naturally
received with great jubilation in all quarters.

United Press Correspondent Richard ~~W.~~ Johnston,
with Halsey's ~~Third~~ Fleet, describes the reaction on the
ship after the public address system ~~burst~~ *blared* forth with
about Russia! -
the ~~good news~~ *as follows:* - "There was a moment of
say he,
intense silence, ~~then~~ a great cheer went up from topside
to the bowels of the ship seven decks below the waterline."
And he goes on:- "This has been the happiest and
dizziest ship in American naval history ever since. The
reaction to the Russian declaration has been
unprecedented in my three years on the Pacific war
coverage."

~~As for our flyers, they have the added feeling~~

D.D.T.

Extra

Today we learn that the much talked about D.D.T., that marvelous insecticide, is going to be put to good use in stamping out a nationwide malaria plague in Greece. Three million people are said to have died from the ravaging disease, and now it has been decided to have ten U.S. Army planes spray the stuff on a million malaria-breeding acres, flying from five to ten feet above the ground. In coordination with the Greek health officials, seven hundred and fifty thousand homes will also be sprayed with the insecticide.

~~In addition to this, large quantities of Atabrine and quinine have been sent to the stricken country, where it is reported that in some areas a hundred per cent of the population is laid low with the malady.~~

*Meanwhile there seems to be ~~no~~
D D T for the use of Americans at home.*

ENDING

Oh, by the way, ~~the~~ last ~~night~~ night I mentioned that the effect of the atomic bomb had even been felt in theatrical circles. That is, Clare Booth Luce calling off her first venture on the stage as an actress, at Stamford, Connecticut -- doing this in order to be ready to dash to Washington when President Truman calls a session of Congress.

To some, this gave the impression that the scintillating and sparkling Mrs. Luce already was packing her bag, and about to take off for the nation's capital. Well, it wasn't quite that way. She'll be ^{1/2} ~~an~~ ^{theatrical} ~~actress~~ ^{thespian} for the rest of this week -- and then a congresswoman.

Hugh, let's leave for Stamford at once..