

May 29, 2020

This Week in History 75 Years Ago, Mauch Chunk, PA

WWII Weekly Front Pages

27 May - 2 June 1945

The Times-News, Mauch Chunk, PA

Memorial Day may have seemed especially significant that year.



EUROPE

The Army announced that General Doolittle was bringing his 8th Air Force from the European theater to the Pacific to join in pounding the enemy with an even greater volume of explosives than hit Germany.

PACIFIC/ASIA

Indications were that Japanese troops were withdrawing from their south China and Okinawa defense lines and giving up in the Philippines.

Unconfirmed reports emanating from China said the Japanese appeared to be pulling out of Liuchow, former US air base, as part of a general withdrawal to northern China, which was thought to possibly include evacuation of rubber and oil producing islands in the Dutch Indies.

The enemy air strikes didn't stop American divisions from making sweeping advances on both fronts of the sodden Okinawa lines, giving them control of two thirds of Naha and half encircling Shuri, keystone fortresses. On 31 May it was reported that Shuri Castle had fallen, but nearby Shuri town was still being bitterly fought over.

In the Philippines, the unprecedented numbers of 508 prisoners were taken the previous week as Tanks boosted the casualties for the Japanese to 378,427. Total American losses were 48,044. Allied soldiers were reportedly tightening pockets on isolated groups of Japanese in jungle hills in the Philippines, Burma and New Guinea as the combat casualty toll among Americans passed the million mark.

Tokyo radio reported extensive fighter plane and B-29 raids over Japan. On Tuesday, about 500 Superforts scorched Yokohama with 3,200 tons of fire bombs in their greatest daylight raid, made 24 hours after Japanese suicide planes wound up their most damaging attacks on US shipping around Okinawa. Admiral Spruance disclosed that "the greatest naval casualties in any of our operations" had been suffered in the Okinawa campaign, in which US ships had been harassed almost daily by suicide planes. On Friday it was the turn of Osaka, industrial metropolis, for an air strike where new fires were kindled in a 600 plane raid.

HOME FRONT

Memorial Day exercises were held in the town on 31 May, highlighted by dedication of the community's honor rolls. Music was provided by local high school bands, and service men and women took part in the parade, which formed at 8:45 A.M. Participants also included Spanish American War veterans, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Mauch Chunk Times-News)