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# 75 Years Ago, WWII, The Morning Call, Allentown, PA

WWII Weekly Front Pages

22 July - 28 July 1945

The Morning Call, Allentown, PA

Unconditional surrender is demanded as the destruction of Japan continues.

THE WEATHER  
TEMPERATURE 71  
HUMIDITY 60  
WIND S, 15-20  
CLOUDS Partly  
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**THE MORNING CALL** FIRST

ALLENSTOWN, PA., TUESDAY MORNING, JULY 24, 1945  
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## PACIFIC

American cruisers and destroyers which had shelled the entrance to Tokyo Bay Wednesday night and early Thursday morning had met no enemy resistance of any sort – either air, surface, shore or submarine – and had retired without incident. Movements of the powerful battle fleet had since then been hidden by radio silence, and jittery Tokyo acknowledged that a new naval bombardment might be expected at any time. On Monday, one of the two remaining serviceable Japanese battleships, the Nagato, was caught by US carrier planes in Tokyo Bay and severely damaged, with her superstructure blasted away. Mid-week, more than 1,000 carrier planes from combined British and American fleets launched devastating new attacks on major combatant shipping, damaging seven warships, including the country's last remaining serviceable battleship, two heavy cruisers, a light cruiser and two aircraft carriers. Admiral Halsey, chief of the Third Fleet, said that this phase of naval warfare was “the beginning of the final plunge into the heart of the Japanese empire.” His ambition was to ride Emperor Hirohito's white horse through the ruins of Tokyo. Late in the week the air attacks on Japanese naval forces continued to an extent that the Japanese fleet was no longer considered an important factor in the Pacific war.

On 24 July a record fleet of more than 600 Superfortresses and 1,000 carrier planes struck the single greatest blow against the quaking Japanese homeland, dropping upwards of 5,000 tons of bombs on Osaka, Nagoya and the Kure naval base. Never before had so many attacking planes filled the skies over Japan at one time – and the pre-invasion air onslaught was only in its opening stages, according to US aerial chieftains. In other air war news, Jimmy Doolittle disclosed his return to the Pacific war and announced that planes under his command, including Superforts and escorting Thunderbolt fighters, would be raiding Japan by 1 August from his striking base on Okinawa.

The US Navy announced the sinking of eleven more Japanese ships by US submarines. Included in this bag were four small combatant craft, two of them minesweepers and two patrol escort vessels. The rest were cargo ships, transports and freighters. The new haul raised to 1,174 the total of Japanese ships sunk by the US sub fleet, which now numbered 250 craft.

Chinese troops fought their way to within eight miles north of Kweilin in a new encircling drive against the great south China air base after breaking up powerful Japanese counterattacks. Japanese rearguards holding onto the biggest abandoned US airfield had counterattacked the previous day with all the force they could muster. Meanwhile, on China's southeastern “invasion” coast, General Chiang's forces hurled flank attacks against Japanese units from Amoy which had been trying to fight their way to the former treaty port of Swatow. Japanese troops then made a breakthrough in a drive apparently designed to build up a defensive wall against any possible Allied landings.

US air force fighter-bombers again winged over Indo-China's high frontier mountains early in the week and struck south of the capital of Hanoi, attacking a power plant and rail transportation at Vihn.

Enemy dead in all Borneo operations now counted 4,306, with 441 captured. Allied casualties – principally Australian – for the operation totaled 386 killed, 12 missing and 1,351 wounded. The ratio of Japanese dead to Allied dead was more than eleven to one.

The Japanese government had decided to convert some shipyards into plants for the manufacture of wooden planes to meet the need for more aircraft. Enemy broadcasts had told of bottlenecks in aircraft production, the search for substitutes for metal and synthetic fuels, the transfer of factories to underground, and neglects and resentment among some workers.

On 26 July the US, Britain and China demanded in an ultimatum that Japan immediately surrender unconditionally or undergo “prompt and utter destruction.” Territorial restrictions would be imposed on Japan,

along with elimination of leaders who had embarked on world conquest, but enslavement of the Japanese people was not an intention.

## EUROPE

President Truman is reported to have taken to the Potsdam conference a whole series of recommendations dealing with possible definitions of unconditional surrender for Japan. A statement from the conference demanding their surrender was confidently expected. Mid-week it was reported that Truman had won important American aims at the conference, and had established a cordial friendship with the Soviet premier, reaching a stage of understanding considered impossible before the meeting opened.

The four major Allied powers had agreed to hold a collective trial of major Nazi war criminals in Nuernberg, pageant place of aggression in Hitler's years of power. Legal authorities had flown to the cathedral city in Bavaria, 134 miles from Berlin, to examine the courtroom and other facilities which would be essential for a trial unparalleled in history. The US delegation was led by a Supreme Court justice who would be the chief US prosecutor.

At daylight on 21 July half a million American soldiers searched every house in the US occupation zone in Germany, looking for ammunition, weapons, radio transmitters and loot. They arrested 80,000 persons, many of them former SS men. This followed a week of grace in which the Germans had been asked to voluntarily turn in the forbidden items without question.

## HOME FRONT

The US Senate approved US membership in the United Nations food organization, forging another bond of international cooperation before it takes up the UN charter next week. Twenty-three other nations, including the UK and China, already had accepted membership in the organization, which was dedicated to studying ways to improved world nutrition, increasing the consumption of food and other agricultural products.

On 26 July Britain's Labor Party, advocating a Socialist program for national reconstruction, stunningly defeated Churchill's Conservative regime. The outgoing prime minister presented his resignation to the Queen, stating that he regretted not being able to finish the work against Japan, but that results in that conflict may come much quicker than had been expected.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Allentown Morning Call)