

unconditional surrender was insisted upon. He said the Allies would have to shed blood proportionate to the intensity of each battle unless they would come to a “reasonable agreement.” He added that in time the Japanese would be victorious if they had double the perseverance of the Allies.

The famed B-29 Superfortress “Dauntless Dottie” crashed into the sea shortly after takeoff near Kwajalein on 7 June, leading to the deaths of 10 Army officers and men. The famous plane had run 44 missions over the Japanese Empire, including the first Superfort mission against Tokyo in November 1944. The crewmen lost enroute to the US for reassignment included a private who was being returned home at his mother’s request because her other two sons had been killed in action.

At the start of the week, American airmen hit new bullseyes on Japanese air strips and sea lanes. Three fleets of Mustang fighters ripped up Tokyo airfields, destroying or damaging 45 enemy planes. The new raid marked the fourth in five days on the capital, and carried the overall air assault on Japan into its 33rd straight day. Admiral Nimitz’s airmen were responsible for the loss of thirteen of sixteen Japanese ships, hitting them near Formosa and the Ryukyu chain. These air attacks were felt to just be the beginning of something much more significant – reports had been coming in of a powerful American naval task force on the prowl in the western Pacific, preparing to add its great strength to the air war against Japan. On 9 July that blow came, with over 1,000 carrier planes swooping in over the Japanese capital from a task force of at least four carriers, four cruisers and fourteen destroyers from Admiral Halsey’s famed Third Fleet. In the attack, which was said to have caught the defenders by complete surprise, over 80 airfields around Tokyo had been smashed. Enemy air power and installations had been so badly damaged so quickly that the Japanese had been unable to fight back.

On 14 July Pacific Fleet warships began shelling Japan, beginning with installations on the main island of Honshu, 275 miles northeast of Tokyo. Some of the world’s most powerful battleships were in the bombardment force. It was the first time US warships had turned their guns on the Japanese home islands. In other news, plans for around the clock raids against Japan were revealed in a dispatch from MacArthur’s headquarters in Manila.

EUROPE

The War Office in London said that trials of war criminals would soon get underway in the British Occupation Zone in Germany. Certain top Nazis may be tried by a joint Big-Three tribunal, but that was up to the leaders of the countries to decide.

A joint command made up of American, British and Russian officers met in Berlin to discuss the problems of the occupied German capital. The first problems to be dealt with were those of food and fuel. Later, the new Board of Controls would take up political activity, transportation, health and fraternization. The ban on the latter may be lifted within the next few weeks.

The last bombers of the Eighth Air Force took off from the British Isles, headed west toward Tokyo. The “Tail End Charlie” was the 2,118th to bid farewell to the England that had been its home for several long, exciting years. The big planes had been leaving at the rate of one every twenty minutes, since the trek had begun just after V-E Day.

The Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) ceased to exist at one minute after midnight on 14 July. In his last message as Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower announced that the task which the Allies had set for themselves in Europe was finished. He remarked, “No praise is too high for the manner in which you have surmounted every obstacle. Now that you are about to pass to other spheres of activity, I say goodbye to you and wish you good luck and God speed.” The general would now become General Commander of US forces in Europe. Earlier in the week he had placed a wreath at the grave of President Roosevelt, in Hyde Park, NY.

HOME FRONT

The Florida State Market Director charged that a flourishing black market in poultry existed in the state, and that it was ruining legitimate dealers selling at Office of Price Administration rates, who were being forced to close because they couldn't compete with the racketeers. He urged quick action by OPA price enforcers.

Americans may soon be getting more meat to eat thanks to the new Secretary of Agriculture. Small slaughtering houses which met certain requirements would no longer be restricted as to the amount of meat they could handle. It was hoped that with the lifting of restrictions an estimated third of the country's supply would be more fairly distributed.

President Harry Truman was en route by ship to Berlin for a conference with the Allied leaders. While away, he would continue to sign bills and carry out other routine presidential matters. It was understood that Mr. Truman was taking to the Three-Power meeting a proposal for uniform, long-term control of Germany. The lifting of a news blackout on the voyage revealed that the weather on the cruiser Augusta had been picture perfect, and although the president was getting up at six A.M. to begin a work-filled day, there was still time for exploring the ship, enjoying the bright sunshine and placid landscape.

Danville was facing a water shortage as the demand from war plants had increased. The use of hose sprinkling and waste of water of any kind was prohibited. Every citizen must be conscious of the need to conserve water as much as possible.

Effective 15 July the Pennsylvania Railroad would withdraw from civilian use 163 sleeping cars operating between 42 cities, including New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The Pullmans would be made available for soldiers.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Danville Morning News)