

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

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## Center Of Kobe Set Ablaze By Big Superfortress Fleet

### Largest Ap Port City Hit By 450 Sky Giants

#### Attack Through Bad Weather

By ROBBIN COONS

GUAM—(AP)—Approximately 450 Superfortresses battered through snow, fog, thunder, and rain to drop incendiary bombs on the industrial and transportation center of Kobe today.

The B-29s, flying through weather so bad they had to make the trip without fighter escort, found perfect weather over Japan's largest port city and spent an hour setting fire to more than 3,000 tons of incendiary bombs in a blazing fire.

The 20th Air Force reported in Washington that eight Superfortresses were missing after the attack. Opposition from Japanese fighter planes was described as moderate. Anti-aircraft fire was reported to be "meager to intense" and was accurate.

#### RESULTS EXCELLENT

Returning pilots described the results as excellent. They guessed damage would exceed the nearly square miles burned out of Yokohama in the last strike on Japan's second largest port.

About 40 Japanese fighters came to intercept the Superfortresses, but they were shot down. The B-29s dropped incendiary bombs from 30,000 feet, and the attack was described as "one of the most successful in the history of the war."

Six hours after the last bomber returned, Japanese broadcasts reported that the city was "gradually being extinguished." Tokyo said the bombs also set fires in Mikaguchi and Awa. Industrial towns along the coast and six miles east of Kobe on the Inland Sea were also hit.

The Dornier News Agency quoted a "senior Army-Navy" communiqué posted in Kobe, claiming the Superfortresses had dropped 4,000 incendiary bombs, 144 of which were "highly effective."

Superfortresses continued their attack on the city of Kobe today, dropping incendiary bombs on the city's main rail line, the city's main port, and the city's main industrial area.

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### Surprise Landing Made

## Yanks Battle For Okinawa Airfield

By HAMILTON W. FARON

GUAM—(AP)—American Marines fought for complete control of the last Japanese-held airfield on Okinawa today in the wake of surprise amphibious landing which put strong American forces on three sides of the enemy's Oroku Peninsula garrison.

Tough paratroopers and Marine raiders of the Sixth Division overran half of the Oroku Airfield yesterday as they plunged ashore from the southern shore of Naha Bay on the island's west coast.

Other Tenth Army troops slashed ahead in the central and eastern areas, reaching the southern coast and entering advances up to 10 miles, a record for the campaign.

Abnally Chester W. Smith, in command of well-dressed Tenth Army troops, said the Marines had taken the Oroku Airfield. He said the Marines had taken the Oroku Airfield.

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## Says Britain Not Behind Syria Crisis

### Churchill Denies De Gaulle Charges

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill denied today the assertions by Gen. de Gaulle that Great Britain had provoked the current crisis in Syria.

Churchill declared Britain had absolutely no ambitions of any kind in the Levant states.

"We sought no territory there and no kind of advantage that was not given to any of the other nations of the world," he said.

Churchill said the French Government decided to propose formally to the United Nations that Britain, France, the United States, Russia and China should consider the problems of the Middle East.

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GERMANY'S NEW BORDERS—Announcement by Allied Governments today fixed the present borders of Germany roughly as shown in the map above. This includes the territory incorporated in the Reich before the annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

## France With U. S. If Test Comes

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—France would go along with the United States in event of a showdown at the United Nations Conference, Chairman Paul Boncour of the French delegation said today.

Any break between the United States and Russia would be a serious blow to the French delegation, Paul Boncour said in an interview.

Another French delegate, commenting on this possibility said it would be very annoying but he would support the American position.

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## Pre-Anschluss Lines Fixed By Allied Powers

### Occupation Zones For U. S., Britain, Russia And France Set Up

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Germany's frontiers were rolled back to the boundaries of Dec. 31, 1937 today in a joint occupation statement by the Allied powers.

The statement, setting up occupation zones for the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia, recreates the "capable of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of order, the administration of the country and compliance with the requirements of the victorious powers."

With Germany's unconditional surrender, the statement said, there no longer is any central government or authority there capable of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of order, the administration of the country and compliance with the requirements of the victorious powers.

It is in these circumstances necessary, without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that may be taken respecting Germany, the statement went on, "to make provision for the restoration of any further hostilities on the part of the German armed forces, for the maintenance of order in Germany and for the administration of the country, and to announce the immediate requirements with which Germany must comply."

Austrian situation. No announcement was made regarding a joint control arrangement for Austria, which is expected to be set up in the fairly near future. Treatment of Austria will be decided by the four big powers.

The agreement to turn ships over to Russia was reached at Dehagen, he said.

Since Italian ships were built mostly for temperate waters of the Mediterranean, Churchill continued, it was decided that they would continue in service in the Allied cause, and an equivalent number of British warships and merchantmen would be delivered to the Red Navy on temporary assignment.

The British warships handed over were the battleship Royal Sovereign, eight destroyers, four modern submarines, and four modern auxiliary vessels.

Further a destroyer was made available to provide spare parts. Churchill said he assumed "full personal responsibility" for the transaction.

He did not make clear just what the U. S. contribution was, but he presumed the Americans supplied the bulk of the merchant shipping the Russians would need.

The disposition of the Italian fleet will be left to the peace conference, Churchill said.

Laborer Tom Thomas suggested that with the war against Germany over, the time had come for Russia to return the ships so they could be used in the Pacific.

These vessels would not be vessels we would use in the war against Japan, Churchill said. We send them to Russia, and they would use them to fight any war that might come.

"I could not think of anything so unbecoming as to suggest to the government that by withdrawing these vessels we would be depriving them of their power and training their men for a powerful fleet and an adequate mercantile marine fleet to travel all the oceans of the world."

London news, previously disclosed that nine of the 40 U. S. destroyers traded to Britain last year had come to the Red Sea, but it had not been known that they were sent in response to Russian demands for part of the Italian fleet.

## Home Training Program Offered

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A peacetime draft plan which would exempt military training without requiring youths to leave home environment for long periods was proposed to Congress today by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A substitute for the American Legion-backed proposal for one year of compulsory training at age 18, the Veterans of Foreign Wars plan would exempt youths from training in the National Guard or National Reserve until age 21.

Under the VFW proposal as explained to the House Postwar Military Policy Committee by Chas. K. Ketchum, national legislative representative, compulsory military training would be given in a home-based training program.

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## Mindanao Gains Made

MANILA—(AP)—Converging troops of the U. S. 24th and 26th Divisions made swift progress today on Mindanao Island. Two new Japanese resistance have been broken in the past three days.

A substantial number of Japanese are caught between these forces, Associated Press Correspondent Richard Bergholt reported today.

Fourth Division elements under Gen. George W. J. Davis, Jr., advanced 1,000 yards northwest of captured the village of Japanese resistance today.

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## Ballon Menace

SEATTLE—(AP)—Two balloons dropped from one of the Japanese balloons which have been used in some instances to drop incendiary bombs on the United States, said a Japanese official today.

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## Bradley Speaks

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## Professional Soldier Core Recommended

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## Japanese Suicide Plane Menace Reduced Daily, Says Mitscher

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Admiral Mitscher today said that the Japanese suicide plane menace was reduced daily.

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## Mecklenburg Casualties

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## Weather

Clear to partly cloudy this afternoon, tonight and Wednesday. Mild this afternoon and evening. High 75, low 55.

Temperature at 2:30 today: High 75, Low 55.

Forecast for tomorrow: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for the day after tomorrow: Partly cloudy.