



Friday, 20 July 1945

Col VII, No. 1

FIVE JAP CITIES STILL BURN

Five major industrial cities were still burning today on the Japanese home islands, as the Allied sea and air pounings continued. More than four thousand tons of fire bombs were dropped by superforts, while an undisclosed number of high explosive bombs were released from fighter bombers.

Planes continued to drop surrender leaflets, offering the Japanese the opportunity of accepting "Peace with honor".

An official announcement was still lacking, however, on the reported ultimatum handed the Japs by Generalissimo Stalin to accept the Allied peace terms now, or be faced with war with Russia. Although semi-official sources in Washington and London have stated that Stalin would deliver such a note to Japan, nothing official has been released from the Big Three Conference near Berlin.

Meanwhile, talks between Generalissimo Stalin and the Chinese foreign minister continued at Potsdam. The Chinese minister was quoted as saying, "Nothing definite has developed from the talks as yet". It has been reported in official quarters, however, that the Chinese-Russian situation, long a softspot on the allied solidarity program, is on the brink of a friendly settlement.

BIG THREE

A note of gaiety was struck last night as the Big Three recessed at a gala Banquet before the delegations from the worlds mightiest powers settled down to the serious business of the meeting. Highlighted by rare foods and wines, the banquet ended at eleven O'Clock, after request numbers had been played for the delegates, and President Truman had entertained with a few piano solos.

BLACK MARKET

While the bomb scarred city of Berlin was taken on new life for the first time since the Allied concentrated bombing attacks, with the meeting of the Big Three and the relaxation of the Non-Fraternization ban, Military Government officials, announced last night that they were "Clamping down" on Berlin's Black Market.
(Cont'd next page)

S.S. SEA QUAIL STATISTICS

The S.S. SEA QUAIL, upon which you are sailing, is a modern ship built in Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. at Pascagoula, Miss. It was launched March 24, 1944, is owned by U.S. Maritime Commission; and operated by Moore-McCormack Lines, Inc., as General Agents for U S War Shipping Administration.

Donald F. Sargent, Master of the ship, is functioning with a crew of 65 merchant Marines, 45 U S Navy men, and 35 U S Army Personnel.

A General Electric steam turbine of 8500 h.p. powers the Sea Quail, developing a service speed of 16½ knots, and a maximum speed of 20 knots. At the speed of 20 knots the daily consumption of fuel is 425 barrels; at 18 knots 380 barrels; 300 barrels per day are consumed while in port.

On dock there is a total of 255 tons of ballast, which is rectangular rock blocks covered over with cement. The purpose of this expedient is to reduce the rolling of the ship, especially while traveling light. Rolling sequences formerly occurring every seven seconds ~~333 were~~ reduced to the extent that 15 seconds are now required to complete the same sequence. Not only has the addition of ballast blocks on the deck contributed to safety, but has also reduced the time and expense otherwise required for loading sand ballast for the empty trips.

Over-all length of the SEA QUAIL is 492 feet, width of 69½ feet, and a gross tonnage of 7886 tons, net of 4600 tons. Other miscellaneous data are as follows: Deadweight, 10,841 tons; R.P.M. of engine, 85; Pitch of wheel, 21' 06"; Water capacity, 1339 tons; Draft (loaded), 28' 06"; Defense tonnage, 242 tons; Permanent ballast in the holds, 1336 tons.

S/Sgt Louis Blackaby

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Jewish services will be conducted in Officer's Mess at 1900 hours this evening. Protestant Daily Devotions will be held each morning at 0900 hours at hatch No. 2 and Catholic rosary will be said daily at 0930 hours at hatch No. 2.

This ship will pass through the STRAIGHTS OF GIBRALTAR sometimes tomorrow morning.

(BLACK MARKET CONT'D)

Military Government officials revealed that the market had reached such a state that the luxury starved residents of Berlin were swapping cameras valued at hundreds of dollars for a few hundred cigarettes or a handful of chocolate bars. Food and Clothing was selling for enormous prices, and the danger of inflation was seen after thousands of counterfeit notes had been circulated. The Berlin Black Market buyers were paying higher prices than those of any black market in Europe, it was stated.

NEWS BITS

The "Queen Elizabeth" arrived in New York yesterday carrying an entire division, the 44th. More than fifteen thousand troops were on board.

In the American occupied section of Berlin, more than twenty thousand pre-Nazi grammar school text books were located and put into use.

TRIPS NOTES

Tomorrow morning about 0830 or 0900 o'clock we will be passing into the Strait of Gibraltar...look in a Northerly direction for "The Rock".

Approximately twelve days' voyage from Marseille will bring the Sea Guard through the Panama Canal to Balboa, a distance of 5050 miles. Eight hours will be required navigating the Canal.

A stop of 15 hours is to be made at Cristobal (at the Caribbean end of the Panama Canal) for refueling.

TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT

A GI talent show will be presented at 1900 hours on Hatch No. 2, and the Moving picture, "You can't Ration Love"; with Betty Rhodes and Johnnie Johnson, a comedy of deliberate misunderstanding, will be shown after dark on hatches 4 and 5. Additional speakers have been hooked up so that the picture can be seen and heard from either Hatch.

ENTERTAINMENT

Capt Ralph J. Knutsen and Lt. Gordon L. Johnson have issued a call for talented personnel to take part in ship entertainment programs. Soldiers interested in participating are asked to report to either Capt Knutsen or Lt Johnson on the Officer's promenade deck.

One of the features of last night's "Spur of the moment" entertainment was the rendition on the base fiddle of Chopin's "Symphony for six flats and a bassoon" by "Off Beat" Van Dusen of Company "D".

SPANNER

To members of the 1301st Engineer General Service Regiment, the SPANNER is an old friend, having originated many thousands of years ago at Camp Ellis, Illinois, but to members of other units aboard the SPANNER is a brand new baby. During this voyage, it is our aim to keep old and new readers abreast of world happenings and informed of shipboard activities. The SPANNER will be published daily and distributed one copy to each ten men. Paper shortages prevent a larger circulation. Suggestions and criticisms are invited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Persons interested in joining a ships orchestra should report tomorrow at 1400 hours to Lt Smith at Hatch #2. Bring instruments if you have them. Instruments will be furnished to members who have no instrument of their own.

Glee Club Rehearsals will be held by Capt Knutsen tomorrow at 1500 hours at Hatch #2. All interested persons are urged to attend.

CENSORSHIP

Censorship regulations also applicable to letters written on board ship, were announced this morning by the Transport Commander, and will be put into effect immediately. The following list of "Do's and Don't's" was issued: DO Write about these things: Friends, new acquaintances, 2. Love letters, 3. Family affairs, 4. Religious services, 5. Entertainment, 6. Memories, 7. Post War Plans, 8. Business, 9. Anything else that does not disclose military information. DON'T write about these things. 1. Date and Port of arrival and departure, 2. Route taken, 3. Type of Vessel, armament, details of convoy, 4. Types and numbers of troops aboard and equipment carried, 5. Rumors or guesses about destination, 6. Description of any action seen or mention of casualties, 7. Mention of air support.

The SPANNER is not censored and cannot be sent through the mail.

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30	Hatch #2	Protestant Service
9:30 - 10:00	Hatch #2	Catholic Rosary
9:00 - 10:30	Chaplains' O	Library Open
10:00 - 11:00	Hatch #2	Radio or Records
11:00 - 11:15	Ships P.A.	System Worlds New
13:30 - 15:30	Chaplains' O	Library Open
14:00 - 15:00	Hatch #2	Radio or Records
16:00 - 1615	Ships P.A.	System Worlds New
1900 - 2000	Hatch #2	GI Show
2000 - 2230	Hatch #4	Movie Show

One hour of Radio each night