

# Nip Navy Chief Of Staff Commits Hara-Kiri To 'Atone' For Defeat

By HENRY SUPER

United Press Staff Correspondent  
SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 17.—Vice Adm. Takihiro Onishi, chief of the naval general staff—who is credited by Tokyo with having originated Japan's suicide air force—has followed the Japanese war corps which said:

minister in committing hara-kiri to atone for his nation's defeat. The official Japanese news agency reported he took his life at 3 a. m. yesterday in his official residence after leaving a note addressed "To the spirits of the members of the special attack corps" which said:

"Ever convinced of final victory, you fell gallantly as human bullets. But that conviction finally hasn't been fulfilled. With my death, I aspire to make atonement for all you candidates and members of the bereaved."

Onishi's suicide followed by less

than 48 hours that of War Minister Gen. Korechika Anami. Thus both the Japanese army and navy have "atoned" for their failure to win the war for Emperor Hirohito.

Circumstances suggested that Onishi may have been elevated to chief of the naval general staff

especially for the honor of hara-kiri. He previously had been listed only as vice chief of staff, with Adm. Soemu Toyoda as chief.

Perhaps Toyoda was considered too valuable to be sacrificed.

Another Domei dispatch, directed toward Europe, referred to Onishi as still vice chief of the

naval general staff, however. Still another Japanese officer—Lt. Gen. Kiyotomi Okamoto, Japanese military attaché to Switzerland—committed suicide at Zurich yesterday, but Japan's defeat still has not brought the wave of mass suicide first anticipated.

Onishi was elevated to vice

chief of the naval general staff May 29, 1945, succeeding vice Adm. Jisaburo Ozawa, after commanding Japanese army and navy land-based planes in the Philippines.

He became a vice-admiral in May, 1943, and from November of that year to October, 1944, was

director of the general affairs bureau of the aircraft ordnance headquarters in the munitions ministry.

He served as chief of staff of the Japanese combined fleet in 1939 and in 1942 was director of the general affairs department of naval aviation headquarters.

## SHORT SHORTS

### THE WORLD—

LONDON, Aug. 17 (U. P.)—There will be absolutely no press censorship when Hermann Goering and other accused Nazi war criminals go on trial for their lives in Nuremberg next month, regardless of what embarrassing diplomatic secrets Hitler's fallen aids may reveal. This was announced today by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, American co-prosecutor in the forthcoming trials.

PARIS—A foreign office spokesman said that Gen. Charles De Gaulle probably would visit New York, Chicago, and Canada as well as Washington during his 10-day trip to confer with President Truman.

OSLO—German ammunition being loaded aboard a lighter in Oslo harbor exploded today, killing and injuring an undetermined number of persons. The explosion rocked the city. There were many casualties among the German troops who were doing the loading.

LONDON—The Prague radio said that Czech military authorities recently caught a band of 37 German "werewolves" in the Broumov district and that military detachments were gradually purging the district of other.

LONDON—The Norwegian information service reported that a firing squad had executed Reldar Haaland, the first Quisling war criminal sentenced to death by Norway's supreme court.

PEARL HARBOR—Army bombers mining the Chinese coast and the Yangtze river tied up the Japanese transportation system so thoroughly the enemy was denied vital war supplies from her stolen South Pacific empire, it now can be revealed.

PRAGUE—Eduard Benes, former president of the league of nations, said that the defeat of the axis powers has not yet restored peace to Europe and probably will not for years. He said: "The consequences of this second world war will be more far-reaching than those of the first one."

### THE UNITED STATES—

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The patience of one Springfield restaurateur's diners has been rewarded. Restaurateur Operator Paul Graham—grateful for the loyalty of his steady patrons through meatless and butterless days—footed the bill for more than 1000 free meals yesterday.

ROCKVILLE, Ind.—Andrew S. Brown died from injuries received when a one-horse wagon he was driving was struck by an automobile.

NEW YORK—Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said that an N. A. M. survey indicated that fewer than 1,500 industrial workers would be unemployed during the reconversion period.

BECKET, Mass.—Belatedly celebrating the surrender of Japan, Fire Chief George J. Crochier obtained permission from Mrs. Julia Barber to burn the ruins of her house which was destroyed partially by fire a few weeks ago.

BOSTON—The U. S. destroyer Ernest G. Small, honoring a late rear admiral who distinguished himself as commanding officer of the U. S. cruiser Salt Lake City, will be commissioned Tuesday at the Boston navy yard.

ROCKFORD, Ill.—City officials meet today to discuss delaying the opening of Rockford schools, set for Sept. 4, on account of an infantile paralysis outbreak which has taken 43 lives.

ELKHART, Ind.—After 61 years as operator of a photographic studio, Elliott M. Mudge retired today because of the ill health of his wife.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The one million persons of greater St. Louis were without newspapers for the second straight day today as the two evening and one morning paper suspended publication because of a strike of carriers.

WASHINGTON—The senate judiciary committee today set Aug. 29 to begin hearings on a bill to give President Truman unlimited powers to streamline the federal government.

SMOKE SHORTAGE TO LAST FOR WHILE

(Continued From Page One)

time to smoke now than ever before and the slight increase we have received will probably be cut back soon and go to them," Charles Rumpf, president of the Smoketeria Importing Co., Inc., said.

The Smoketeria official said three of the major tobacco companies sent them an added amount last week, but had not actually raised their quota a single carton.

Bruce Hines, manager of the Haag Drug Co.'s tobacco department, said Haag's had received about 10 per cent increase in the last six weeks, and that they might even more soon.

In the meantime, the city's cigarette smokers, long accustomed to long lines, formed queues and waited for their single packages of "any brand."

## JAPS' ENVOY TO ARRIVE SUNDAY

### MacArthur Orders Peace Mission 'Speed-Up.'

(Continued From Page One)

"set the imperial mind at ease by confirming the imperial will."

#### 'Cease Fire' Order

At the same time, Japanese general headquarters notified MacArthur by radio that members of the emperor's family had left by plane for Manchuria, China and French Indo-China to inform Japanese forces there of Hirohito's cease-fire order.

Tokyo said Gen. Yasuji Okamura, supreme Japanese army commander in China, had notified Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek that his forces had caused hostilities against China, but still were being attacked in some sectors by Chinese troops.

Okamura said he chose to believe that Chiang had not ordered such "unlawful" Chinese acts and warned that his forces might "take action for self-defense."

Premier Higashi-Kuni said the first task of his new government would be to sign the peace terms and fulfill the requirements of the Potsdam declaration.

#### Other Developments

Other developments in the fast-breaking Pacific situation included:

1. Japan formally asked MacArthur to halt the Russian offensive in Manchuria on the ground that it was making Japanese compliance with a cease-fire order difficult. Tokyo said the Soviets were approaching a point west of industrially-important Mukden after an indicated advance of 250 miles.

2. Japan admitted that Japanese planes attacked some 12 allied transports which approached extremely near the coast of the home island of Shikoku at noon Tokyo time yesterday, but pointed out that the incident occurred four hours before Hirohito had issued his cease-fire order.

3. The official Japanese Domei news agency said Japan has made arrangements to return the occupied Portuguese half of Timor island northwest of Australia to Portugal.

4. Tokyo said Vice Admiral Takihiro Onishi, chief of the Japanese naval general staff, had committed suicide at his official residence yesterday—the second top-ranking Japanese officer in three days to commit hara-kiri after Japan's surrender.

5. A new Japanese cabinet headed by Prince Naruhiko Higashi-Kuni, a cousin of Hirohito, was sworn in at the imperial palace.

MacArthur's call for the immediate departure of a Japanese armistice delegation for Manila was radioed to Tokyo in response to an enemy request for clarification of the exact duties of the envoys.

#### Show Impatience

The supreme occupation commander showed increasing impatience with what appeared in many respects to be deliberate Japanese stalling and unnecessary requests. The Japanese sent seven messages in six and one-half hours today.

Japan sent her request for clarification of the mission's duties only after MacArthur had consented to postponement of the flight beyond the original deadline of today to enable the enemy to "complete arrangements."

Japan said a slight difference in language between notes sent her by U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes and MacArthur made the exact duties of the mission obscure.

"In any way, we assume that the signing of the surrender terms is not among the tasks of the Japanese representative in question," Tokyo said.

"Your assumption . . . is correct," MacArthur replied.

#### Mission to Get Terms

The Japanese mission—consisting of a single person representing the emperor, the government and the imperial general headquarters along with advisers from the army, navy and air force—will receive the armistice terms from MacArthur and take them back to Tokyo.

MacArthur also was expected to intervene to halt the Soviet offensive in Manchuria at the earliest possible moment. However, it was pointed out that it now takes Manila about eight hours to communicate with Moscow and the matter may have to be submitted through Washington.

"With the Soviet entry into the war and in view of the existing domestic and foreign situation, we sued for peace with the four powers in the interests of preserving the national policy and to avoid further needless disasters."

Japan confessed her air attack on allied transports of Shikoku in the third of her messages to MacArthur. It said the planes "apparently caused some damage," but explained that the attack occurred four hours before the emperor's cease-fire order was issued.

"It takes some time for the said order to reach the front line and produce full effect," the message said. "It is earnestly requested that the allied forces will refrain from approaching the islands of Japan until the order will have been fully effected."

#### ENDS BAN ON GREETINGS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (U. P.)—The government today removed the ban on congratulatory and greeting telegrams.

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## Demonstrate Latest in Plane Control

A CAA pilot flying "blind" . . . he made a perfect landing.



## PARADE DRAWS GREAT CROWD

### War Veterans Cheered in Victory Procession.

(Continued From Page One)

lined the walks—they were marching in the center of the street.

But while adults beamed happily, youngsters screamed and blew horns and the tiny tots looked a little bewildered, there were many scenes to remind everyone of the pride of victory.

Many a soldier parading wore the purple heart for wounds, many a mother brought a handkerchief to a tear-dimmed eye. And then, sitting straight in his wheelchair was a Negro veteran of the famed Buffalo division, Camp Atterbury trained.

Knew Victory's Cost

His chest was covered with campaign ribbons. One leg stopped at the knee. He knew what went into victory.

For a parade formed on two days' notice, the people got their money's worth. Under sunny skies they stood for an hour as bands, soldiers, the state guard, veterans' organizations and their auxiliaries streamed by.

It seemed to be a parade of almost anyone who wanted to get in. Its spontaneity was marked. Horsemen drove their mounts to the sidelines to bow at youngsters. Indian-costumed men whooped it up and playfully scalped the "pretty young things."

#### Place in History

Sponsored by the 11th district of the American Legion, the parade will probably go down in history as the "Big Show" ending a bigger show, the war.

As the last unit of the parade went by and the noise began to fade in the distance, a blond girl turned in her mother's arms.

Blue eyes looked out from under heavy lids.

"Let's go home mummy. I'm tired," she said.

So were some 200,000 or so other Hoosiers.

It had been a big week.

## Hope for Nylons Next December

(Continued From Page One)

around wearing glider nylon tow-ropes.

Nylon hose are manufactured from 30 denier, the most sheer from 20 denier. A tow rope is about 1500 denier when completed although the individual strands are finer.

The wartime use of nylon called for a heavier thread. Its use probably wouldn't be too flattering.

At 9:30 a. m. bound for southeastern China and French Indo-China to notify troops of Japan's surrender. The flight, originally scheduled for tomorrow, was undertaken immediately "in order to avoid any possible delay due to bad weather."

The emperor's rescript to Japan's forces to lay down their arms was regarded as another attempt by Japan to end hostilities.

A rescript is regarded as the most powerful type of imperial order.

#### Rescript Asks Discipline

The rescript also called on Japanese army and navy forces in all theaters to "maintain solid unity and strict discipline in their movements."

Whereas the emperor in his original message to the homeland attributed Japan's surrender primarily to the introduction of the atomic bomb, his rescript said:

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The Japanese also admitted in their seventh message to MacArthur—sent at 4 a. m., more than an hour after their request for his intervention with Russia—that members of the imperial family asigned to Manchuria and China of the cease-fire order did not leave Tokyo until 9:30 a. m. today.

Tokyo said a second Japanese imperial party also had left Tokyo

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