

CINCIPA COMMUNIQUE NO. 468.

Units of the United States Third Fleet in the vicinity of Honshu are being approached by Japanese aircraft. Those that do so are being shot down by our forces, 5 Japanese aircraft having been destroyed since 1200 Japanese time 15 August.

General MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander for Japan has been requested to inform Japanese authorities that our own measures for defense require our naval forces to destroy any Japanese aircraft approaching our dispositions.

FORRESTAL CONGRATULATES PACIFIC FLEET

Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz transmits to the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean area with the greatest satisfaction and pride the following message from SecNav

"My warmest congratulations on the successful completion of a great task. Please send to the Commanders of the Fleet and Forces throughout the Pacific and all hands in their commands my personal congratulations and the deep pride which America has in their accomplishments. Let us keep in revered recollection the memories of those of our comrades whose sacrifice has given us our freedom."

--- James Forrestal

MARINES ADOPT ARMY DISCHARGE PLAN

Washington, 15 August - The U.S. Marine Corps today announced its demobilization formula, making it identical with that in effect for the Army. Under the plan 85 points were fixed as the minimum for male personnel and 25 for female personnel, computed as of 15 May 1945.

The Marine Corps said subsequent reductions in scores will be based upon missions assigned to the Corps in the immediate future, but that it is prepared to process immediately "certain men leaving the necessary credits." The Marine Corps said it was unable to give any estimate of the number of men eligible for release. Because of the relatively small number of officers involved, individual consideration will be given to the case of each officer.

The Army announced that it hopes to discharge five million men in the next 12 months, but the point score will remain at 85. Secretary Stimson also announced Army has lowered to 38 the age at which enlisted men may be discharged. Men over 38, he said, will be eligible for discharge within 90 days after they ask for release. The Army estimates that three hundred thousand men will be eligible for release under this policy.

Stimson explained: "Our first responsibility, before we make additional men eligible for release from the Army, will be to make certain that the Japanese have accepted the surrender terms in good faith. There are 2,250,000 trained Japanese soldiers in the home islands alone, and an equal number still to be disbanded in other Pacific-Asiatic territory."

THIRD FLEET LAST STRIKE

Ocean, 16 August - Before receiving cease fire orders, carrier borne planes of the Third Fleet struck the Tokyo area early Wednesday and shot down 26 planes over targets, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz said today.

Nine other Japanese planes were shot down during Wednesday including five previously reported shot down as they approached the vicinity of Admiral Halsey's Fleet off Honshu. Additional nine planes were destroyed on ground, bringing the total Japanese aircraft toll for Wednesday to at least 40 ships. The Japanese were saved further plane losses, Halsey said, by the cease-fire order which followed Japanese acceptance of the Allied surrender terms.

Further strikes scheduled for Wednesday were called off abruptly, Nimitz said. The cease-fire word was radioed to planes already in the air, and 12 pilots turned back only seconds away from targets.