

TOKYO

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The story of the B-29 attack on Tokyo is almost twenty-four hours old, but it remains the exciting news of the day. Brigadier General O'Donnell of the Twenty-first Bomber Command, who led the formation, reports that this historic attack on the Mikado's capital was a complete success.

The B-29s went in without any fighter protection whatsoever. Each plane, we learn, carried more than ten tons of bombs. There were more than a hundred Superforts on the raid, so they dropped altogether, on Tokyo, more than a thousand tons of explosives. The biggest raid that land-based bombers have ever made in ~~the~~ the Pacific theatre of war.

Among the targets they hit was the important Nakajima aircraft factory in the western part of the city. And photographs taken by reconnaissance planes show that fires today were still burning in the central part of Tokyo.

General Arnold, as Commander of the Twentieth Air Force, reports smoke rising at great heights in all

the industrial areas of Tokyo. The Japanese radio claimed that the fires were small, confined to civilian homes and hospitals. However, the airmen took photographs as they bombed. And these show no fewer than six fires in another aircraft factory, one of the most important that make the Jap planes.

The Japanese say they shot down three of the Superforts. On that General Arnold says nothing.

A correspondent of the United Press, who rode in one of the giant planes, reports that there were perfect bombing conditions. He says that General O'Donnell took Tokyo by surprise. Also, that the big bombers were flying at a ~~high~~ height where only a few Jap interceptors could climb to reach them. And, that their ack-ack fire was inaccurate and spotty.

The airmen got their first great thrill when they saw the snowcapped peak of Mt. Fujiyama, through the clouds; shortly before noon. By eight minutes past twelve the target was in sight. They spotted a stadium

and a racetrack, then groups of factory ~~bum~~ buildings. Presently over the interphone communication came the cry - "two fighters at ten o'clock." That was the first report they had of enemy interceptors. There were others under them that couldn't climb high enough, and some ten thousand feet below the B-29s.

At twelve minutes past noon the bombardier in the correspondent's plane called out - "bombs away!" Or whatever the latest Pacific slang phrase is that the airmen are now using. They saw the gray walls of Emperor Hirohito's moated palace, just after an observer reported that the bombs were right on the target.

As they turned to go back to base the flak was more intense, but didn't touch the planes. With a one-hundred and twenty knot tailwind, they raced back to Saipan.

The ten tons the B-29s carry is ~~is~~ more than twice the weight the huge British Lancaster hauls on a mission over Germany.



The B-29s also take along one hundred and sixty drums of gasoline containing fifty gallons apiece, eight thousand gallons, as much ~~as~~ as the load of a full tank car.

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In a special report to the President, General Arnold as Chief of the Twentieth Air Force, reports that this operation was not a mere hit-and run-raid, but a calculated extension of our air power. And ~~it~~ he added that this is just a beginning of the systematic demolition of Japan's war production. He didn't say exactly how many of the big planes made this trip. but the inference is that there were more than a hundred.

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The attack was almost as much of a triumph for the engineers as for the pilots and crews of the bombers. For it was the engineers who built the huge base that made the raid possible. For several months they've been dumping coral, working furiously, until some of the airfields have as much as several miles of runways.



Also today we learn for the first time of the existence of the 21st Bomber Command under Brigadier General Heywood Hansel, Junior.

In New York tonight there is a proud young man, seven-year-old Patrick O'Donnell, the Brigadier General Emmett O'Donnell's boy. He said he was glad Daddy had bombed the Japs, but hopes they didn't hurt Sumi, a maid who used to work for the O'Donnells in pre-Pearl Harbor days.

Tokyo is the third largest city in the world. The systematic raids that General Arnold proposes will be just as important to the war effort as the bombing of Berlin. For Tokyo is the industrial and nerve center of the entire Japanese empire.

π James R. Young, author of the Road to Tokyo, says we have to think of it as being ~~slightly~~ larger than Philadelphia, Detroit or Chicago. Downtown are modern buildings but the outlying districts at the northeast, south and west are jammed with hundreds of thousands of wooden houses with paper doors and windows. In two sections are tens of thousands of fire trap buildings and small factories. π There are forty-one fire stations in the Mikado's capital, but not a hook and ladder <sup>wagon</sup> ~~ladder~~ that can reach more than three stories. Superficially it is a modern city. But from the air, ~~it is~~ <sup>Jimmy Young calls it</sup> an ideal target for

~~xxxx~~ magnesium bombs, incendiaries, and demolition explosives, of all kinds.

It is an easy place to bomb because on one side is a bay with two large rivers, many canals and an elevated railroad. ~~xxx~~ You cannot mask any sizeable bodies of water so that they cannot be seen even from high up in the air. On the other hand if the tide goes out at noon, when the superforts roared over from Saipan, the canals would be useless as a water supply. And if the reservoirs were cut it would shut off the main pumping station so that the city's fire hydrants ~~xxxx~~ would go dry.

A conflagration in Tokyo would have a more severe effect than any raid on Rotterdam, Cologne, or Berlin. And if the bridges were blasted ~~xxx~~ whole communities would be trapped.

Accordingly, says Jimmy Young, the B-29s *have* changed the strategy of our war in the Pacific.  
~~xxxx~~



PRODUCTION

~~Disturbing news~~ from Southern California ~~we~~  
~~tells us~~ <sup>hear</sup> that not enough of the big B-29s are  
being turned out. ~~We have~~ <sup>This</sup> on the authority  
of Lieutenant General William S. Knudsen, former  
head of ~~the~~ General Motors, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ has been inspecting  
aircraft plants, ~~in Southern California~~ <sup>Gen. Knudsen says</sup> ~~he says~~  
there is a definite lag in production. And the  
fact to blame for ~~the~~ it all is ~~that~~ as he puts  
it "disappearing employees". Too many workers in  
aircraft plants ~~have been~~ taking days off, <sup>and</sup> too many  
~~of them~~ have been resigning.

# PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines a Japanese convoy was on its way bringing reinforcements to the enemy garrison on Leyte. A formation of Uncle Sam's carrier-based bomber fighters caught them northwest of Leyte, <sup>and</sup> sank two transports, and a destroyer with all hands. They also set another transport on fire and forced it to beach on shore. <sup>It</sup> MacArthur reports that our planes <sup>in doing this killed</sup> ~~killed~~ at least four thousand five-hundred Jap <sup>troops</sup> ~~troops~~, which <sup>bringing</sup> ~~brings~~ the number of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Mikados</sup> ~~200~~ soldiers killed at sea, since October twentieth, up to fifteen thousand. Our planes ~~drive~~ <sup>drive</sup> bombed the ~~Jap~~ Jap ships at mast-top height and ~~gave~~ not one of our planes was ~~not~~ <sup>also</sup> lost. <sup>They</sup> destroyed forty-two Nipponese planes.

In spite of the important Japanese victories in China a spokesman of the Chinese army today said that he himself was optimistic. Although the Nipponese are consolidating the positions they ~~xxx~~ captured near Liuchow, and they've China cut in two, this sanguine Chinese spokesman claims that the Japs will be unable to start another offensive for two or three months, because their lines are so extended they'll have to take time out to get ready for further moves.

Tokyo, however, reported today that the Mikado's armies on the mainland have pushed more than a hundred miles west of ~~Li~~ Liuchow, capturing ~~an~~ an important railway station, and will soon be in a position to isolate Chungking from the Burma Road city of Kunming.

Now H — it's your turn for a moment, while I look over my dispatches



## WESTERN FRONT

From the Western Front tonight ~~comes~~<sup>comes</sup> the dramatic news that American infantry have begun the "watch on the Rhine". They joined up today with the Second French Armored Division, under General Jacques LeClerc at Strasbourg. They have wiped out practically all organized resistance by the Nazi garrison except in ten per cent of the city. Tonight the tri-color flies from ~~the~~<sup>that</sup> spire of the great cathedral of Strasbourg.

One of the surprises in the capture of this historic place is that the Nazis have ~~been unable to~~ not been able to destroy either the <sup>highway</sup> bridge or the two railway bridges leading east across the Rhine. But they still hold the west end of all those bridges, and the French and Americans are attacking ferociously.

The enemy still holds a circle of old forts around the city. So their mortars and machine guns are able to interfere considerably with the movement in the streets. Nazi guns from the Siegfried Line across the river are shelling the center of Strasbourg.

The credit of capturing the city belongs to the Sixth Army under General Jacob L. Dever. Just one hundred days have past since Dever's divisions left their boats in the Mediteranean and fought their way north through France along the same route that Napoleon traveled after his escape from Elba. One month ago, the Nazi High Command announced boastfully that Dever and his Sixth Army was through for the winter. He was through to the extent that in the last ten days he has advanced sixty miles, much of the time through a blinding snow storm.

~~Further South, near Belfort, the French under General Tassigny have captured two more important places in the Belfort Gap. And the American Seventh Army has captured the town of Saales. That place is the key to the pass through which runs the only railroad over the Vosges Mountains.~~

In the Saar District, Patton's men have advanced still further, capturing towns and villages as they go,

and approaching closer to Saarbrucken.

The fiercest fighting along the Western Front is in the north where the United States First and Ninth Army <sup>ies</sup> with the British Second Army, are pressing on toward the Rhine. The left wing of the British Second has crossed huge mine fields, captured four points near <sup>v</sup> Senlo and is coming closer to the Ruhr District.



## PLANE

British and Americans alike are baffled by the mystery created by one of our flying fortresses. On Tuesday afternoon it came down from the skies out of the West and made a perfect landing in a plowed field near gun positions of the British Second Army. A company of Tommies promptly rushed to the plane and waited for the crew to come out. They waited, and no crew came out. Then they went closer, investigated and found not a soul in that big airship. Neither were there any muddy tracks leading from the flying fortress to show that anybody had left.

The great bomber was badly battered by flak. The mystery is how it could have made such a perfect landing with no one at the controls.

## RUSSIA

Estonia now is completely freed of the German yoke. Marshal Stalin announced <sup>S</sup> that the Baltic armies have driven the last remaining Nazis from the island of Saare, sometimes called Osel, in the Gulf of Riga.

The remnants of the garrison <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ driven into the sea, ~~from their positions on the Sorve Peninsula of that island.~~

One advantage of that successful issue is that it releases seventy-five thousand of the Soviet forces for use elsewhere.

The battle is now on for Latvia. In the western part of the country the Baltic armies have ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> remains of thirty German divisions trapped on the Courland Peninsula. The Red air force has sunk one German destroyer and three other vessels in the Baltic. In addition, they have damaged a heavy cruiser and several other warships.

Moscow also reports that the armies of the Ukraine have captured several places in Hungary and also in Czechoslovakia.

LEND LEASE

President Roosevelt today put an end to the reports that he proposed to continue lend lease to our Allies after the war. In a message to Congress he told the lawmakers that not only lendlease but reverse lend lease should stop as soon as the war is over. But he added that the partnership of the United Nations should not only continue but should even grow stronger to make sure that the peace endures.

He reported that reverse lend lease from Britain and the British Dominions had contributed much to hastening the victory over Germany and Japan. Without it we should have had to postpone the invasion of France <sup>for</sup> many months. <sup>He said we would</sup> ~~we should~~ have needed to build a thousand ~~thousand~~ ships to send across the Atlantic the supplies that the British provided. <sup>He added that</sup> Great Britain and the British Dominions provided more than three billion, three hundred and twenty-eight million dollars worth of reverse lend lease. That is, about one-third of the lend lease <sup>that has gone</sup> from us to the British Empire.



CANADA

There was an uproarious scene at Ottawa in the Canadian house of Commons today. A member of Prime Minister MacKenzie King's own party bolted to the opposition with angry words. He is Wilfred LaCroix, member for a Quebec constituency. He joined the two other Quebec Liberals who bolted last night.

LaCroix declared that the Prime Minister had been treacherous to the people of Quebec. Shortly after he bolted, the Prime Minister announced that his Air Minister, C. G. Power had resigned on that same issue, the issue of conscripting Canadians for overseas service.

## BONDS

From the Pacific comes an appeal to us ~~on the~~  
~~home front~~ to buy more bonds and make the Sixth-War-  
Loan-drive a complete success. Admiral Spruance,  
Commander of the Fifth Fleet, ~~says that if we are to~~  
~~finish this war within a reasonable time we must continue~~  
~~to receive the general support of the American people.~~  
Vice Admiral Lockwood, Commander of the Pacific Fleet  
Submarine force, ~~said the success of the drive is~~  
~~essential to guarantee a speedy return of our lads to~~  
~~their homes~~ <sup>and</sup> Vice Admiral Calhoun, Commander of the  
Pacific Fleet Service force, ~~says war bonds have a~~  
*all join in this*  
*appeal to us.*  
~~threefold purpose: they help buy the weapons ~~we~~ for~~  
~~victory, they prevent inflation, and they pile up for~~  
~~us a store of savings which will enable us to buy the~~  
~~things that civilian consumers need when they become~~  
~~available.~~

LABOR

The C.I.O. convention at Chicago today registered a protest against the freeze<sup>wy</sup> of wages. The ~~XXXXX~~ resolution also said several things about the War Labor Board. <sup>And</sup> The delegates ~~also~~ adopted a resolution calling for the absolute ~~XXXXXXXX~~ destruction of Hitlerite Germany and the Japanese Militarists, <sup>no</sup> negotiated or soft peace.

~~The convention of the American Federation of Labor at New Orleans ran into a difference of opinion over the world conference on labor at London. Daniel Tobin, head of the Teamsters Union, said he would refuse to have any part in the London discussions. As a member of the Executive Council of the A.F. of L., <sup>he</sup> said ~~he~~ he could not sit at the same table with Labor organizations that are not free because their wages are set by their government. <sup>And he added that</sup> ~~And~~ the fact that the C.I.O. has accepted an invitation to London makes no difference to Tobin.~~



TAXI STRIKE

Today it became clear that the strike of taxi drivers in Seattle is a revolt against David Beck, Vice President of the Teamsters Union. We have heard a lot about Beck in the last couple of years, of the charges that he is in some respects the virtual ruler of the Pacific Northwest, how he has prevented <sup>brewers</sup> ~~XXXXXXXX~~ <sup>other</sup> from ~~the~~ Pacific States from bringing their <sup>beverage</sup> ~~beer~~ into the state of Washington.

*TP* The striking hackmen are independent drivers, mostly, and have kept the employees of the chain taxi companies off the street. Their grievance is that the union has favored the drivers for the big taxi companies. David Beck who is in New Orleans at the Convention of the American Federation of Labor sent them a telegram, ~~saying~~ ordering them to go back to work.

*1/2* The strikers retaliated by asking the Seattle police to protect them against Beck's "Goon Squads," as they call them. <sup>Meanwhile for!</sup> ~~As usual,~~ the public, <sup>no taxis!</sup> ~~is out of luck, no~~

~~carrier taxis~~ And now H - what say you?

ARMY

And There are now eleven million, eight hundred and fifty-nine thousand men in the armed forces of the United States. So we hear today from Major General Hershey, Director of Selective Service. Of those, more than eight million are in the army alone. Besides the men there are one hundred and eighty-nine thousand women in the services.

Gen. Hershey also reports the rather appalling fact that the armed services have rejected four and a half million men because they were either disabled or illiterate <sup>or</sup> mentally deficient.

And now H - what from you.