

## OKINAWA

L.I. - *Sensco. Monday, May 28, 1945.*

*(Given by Dr. R.C. Andrews, L.I. in Pacific war area.)*

On Okinawa, the Yanks are ~~killing~~ the Japs

at the rate of almost one thousand a day. And many more of the <sup>little</sup> yellow men ~~die~~ die by suicide.

A dispatch today reports that the part of the island we came so far to get is already ours. But it will take several weeks to finish up the job. It is a slow battle of attrition against not only Japanese, but rain and mud.

Okinawa is already one of the most useful American air bases in the Pacific. From air fields in the islands nearby our planes have sunk thousands of tons of enemy shipping. They have bombarded Jap shore installations all the way from the China coast to Korea and Kyushu. Since we invaded the Ryukyus, meaning Okinawa, our men have shot down more than three thousand enemy planes of all types. AS Admiral Nimitz put it, "we now have a valuable piece of real estate in the Ryukyus, far more valuable than we had expected. We have air superiority over most of the vital inner arteries and bases of the Mikado's empire."

From Okinawa we can take our time in the mopping up job, thereby losing as few American lives as possible. The engineers have all they can do putting the airfields into shape and preparing other shore installations. The capture of Yonabaru harbor is described as a godsend. It gives us harbor facilities which make it possible to unload cargoes even when typhoons rage over the reefs. Yonabaru has one of the best fleet anchorages in that part of the world.

ADD OKINAWA

A later dispatch from Guam reports that the Japs on Okinawa are trying to form a new line to the south. They are withdrawing most of their men from Shuri. The doughboys of the Seventh Division have captured a steep cliff below Yonabaru. This has blocked the Japanese from retreating into the Chinen Peninsula. In fact, almost every escape route from Shuri has been closed by the American nutcracker operations. Since the Americans landed on the island, they fired ~~more~~ more than a million artillery shells against the Japanese.



## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, Major General Chase Commanding the Thirty-Eighth Infantry Division, has taken steps to finish the fierce battle of WaWa on Luzon. Frank H. Bartholomew, Vice-President of the United Press, visited the scene of fighting with a party driving in a couple of jeeps. They found the town of Wawa ruined. It is just twenty miles east of Manila. The principal fighting took place in a canyon between two perpendicular hills, ~~which~~<sup>which</sup> form the abutments of the Wawa dam. The Yanks already have the two other dams of the Manila water system.

On the way, ~~the party~~<sup>the party</sup> passed hundreds of wrecked vehicles. Many of these were late American models of expensive make. When the Japs ran out of Manila, they rounded up every available car. Up the canyon they fought a rear guard action. Finally they could not ~~retreat~~<sup>retreat</sup> any further because their backs were ~~up~~<sup>3</sup> against the dam. American air and artillery fire then turned their motor pool into a shambles.

The newspapermen went ~~on~~<sup>on</sup> until they were stopped by the lively fire of a Japanese twenty



millimeter gun straight ahead of them. Four American tanks rolled up the canyon and fired at every Japanese gun position and cave that they could see on ~~either~~ <sup>either</sup> side. ~~the Wawa Dam~~ We may expect to hear at any moment that the Wawa Dam is also in American hands.

ADD PHILLIPINES

But the Japanese on Luzon still have a fertile valley a hundred and twenty-five miles long. It is known as the "bread basket of the islands." They are thus well organized and well fed, thirty thousand of them. In the <sup>Kash-gah-yahn</sup>~~Cagayan~~ Valley they still have air fields and landing strips. However, officers expect that they will be able to break up ~~the~~ the major centers of Jap resistance in the Philippines into remnants within the next few weeks.

Another air attack on Tokyo. The news

comes from the Mikado's capital itself. Three superforts and a big formation of fighter planes flew over and bombed the air fields around noon today. Other B-29s dropped mines in the waters surrounding the Japanese home islands. The report that there were only three superforts in the attack was puzzling at first. But a possible explanation is that these flew ahead to show the American fighter planes the way.



Appropos of the tremendous fires which our incendiary bombs have started in Tokyo, I have often thought of when I was there just after the great earthquake in Nineteen Twenty three. Never will I forget the devastation that was caused by fire both in Yokohama and Tokyo. Tokyo has sixty percent more roofage per acre than any of the German cities. In other words, the houses are sixty percent closer together. Since the walls of most of them are made of wood with paper screens, they are absolute tinderboxes. The ~~part~~ of Tokyo, at the time of the earthquake, which was swept by fire, was literally a heap of ashes. The bombing of these areas is just as much a military objective as are the great aircraft factories. In peacetime, almost every little shop manufactured toys or other articles. During war these civilian families were ~~amixed~~ <sup>diverted</sup> into making parts for munitions of all sorts.

## LEBANON

The situation in Syria and Lebanon is growing no better in a hurry. The latest from Asia minor is that the government of Syria has ordered the mobilization of all men between sixteen and sixty. A dispatch from Cairo brings word that in Aleppo, six inhabitants were killed and eight others wounded by fire from the French quarter. The Ankara radio reports <sup>that</sup> all government buildings in Damascus have been protected with sandbags. French troops have been withdrawn from three towns including Aleppo, into camps on the outskirts.

A meeting of the Arab League has been called to start next Monday. The Secretary General of the League told reporters at Cairo that things are getting worse. He charges the French have cut communications between large towns in Syria and Lebanon.

Diplomats in London were saying today that this problem may be thrown into President Truman's lap for mediation. Officials in England seem to believe that the President of the United States, ~~because~~ <sup>because</sup> of his remoteness from the scene of the quarrel, may be the ideal arbitrator.

ADD LEBANON

The Foreign Minister of Lebanon this evening appealed to the San Francisco Conference to help his country and Syria. He quoted the Atlantic Charter and urged that it was up to the big powers to protect the Syrians and Lebanese from the French. Later reports from Bayreuth indicate widespread riots, shooting and disorders all over both countries.



## TRIESTE

More trouble in the neighborhood of Trieste!

Last night somebody shot and wounded an American sentry.

The men who did it had not been identified, but American officers are investigating. The Italians also report that shots were exchanged between Jugoslavs and Italian partisans somewhere east of Udine.

The situation in that part of the world still is obviously tense. A later story from Rome hints that the differences are being ironed out between Marshal Tito and British Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander.

## QUISLING

News from Norway is that Major Vidkin Quisling thinks he is very badly treated. The number one Norwegian traitor promptly appealed the decision of the court to hold him until August twenty-fifth for trial. He is expected to put the blame for his crimes on Joseph Terboven, Hitler's commissar in Norway. Terboven, of course, is dead.

According to the latest estimate, the Norwegian government will put ~~no~~ no fewer than twenty thousand of the Quisling supporters on trial. There were forty thousand altogether.

Former President Hoover ~~went to~~<sup>8</sup> the White House today in response to an invitation from President Truman. It was Mr. Hoover's first visit there since he turned it over to President Roosevelt on March Fourth, Nineteen Thirty-three.

Mr. Truman invited his predecessor to discuss the terrific problem of feeding the peoples of Europe. On that, of course, Herbert Hoover is an expert and past master. So it is no surprise to learn through a White House announcement that Mr. Hoover had some very constructive ideas, which the President was happy to receive.

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Many people in Washington have been expecting to hear that the President has asked Mr. Hoover to take over the job of European relief. On that there is no official announcement. But, as Mr. Hoover left, the White House did give out the information that the President had also asked former Governor Landon of Kansas and Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, the titular head of the Republican Party.



President Truman sent a message to Congress today, asking the lawmakers to provide extra unemployment compensation for war workers. As he put it, "there is a major gap in the government's reconversion program". He described it as, "the gap of adequate benefits for workers temporarily unemployed during transition from war to peace". He added that the government should provide at least twenty-five dollars a week for men with dependents and without jobs. This should be paid to them for at least ~~twenty~~ twenty-six weeks in any one year, if they are unemployed that long.

He is confident, he added, that with appropriate measures we can avoid large scale and lengthy unemployment during the transition period. But even if reconversion goes ahead quickly, no amount of planning can make jobs immediately available for all who are displaced. Those who have given of themselves so fully on the fighting and production fronts, must have maximum security. The President pointed out that only about thirty million of our forty-three million non-agricultural workers are protected by unemployment

insurance.

Some of the states have large sums in their unemployment trust ~~fund~~ funds. But the President pointed out that changes in state laws cannot be brought about overnight. And he added that decent unemployment benefits would serve as a bulwark against post-war deflation.

## SEIZURE

Mr. Truman today for the first time used his war powers as President to seize a factory. Labor troubles had interrupted work at a group of textile plants in South Carolina. The need for the product is so acute, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the President ordered the Secretary of War to take over and run the factory.



Here is a strange story about a group of men who do not want a raise in salary. I mean the Senate of the United States.

As you may recall, the House of Representat<sup>ives</sup> passed a law giving themselves an expense account of Twenty-five hundred a year, tax exempt. When the issue came up in the Senate, it evoked a mixed reaction. The Senators indulged in some of the bitterest repartee and most flowery oratory heard in weeks. It also produced loud laughter in the galleries.

It came to a vote today, and the Upper House rejected it forty-three to nine. Then Senator Bridges of New Hampshire proposed a straight fifteen percent raise, meaning Fifteen Hundred dollars. They voted that down thirty-eight to twelve.

On top of that, they voted unanimously to raise the wages of the Senate page boys to Five Dollars a day. As It stands, Representatives in future will receive twelve thousand five hundred a year. Sm Senators will continue to get only ten thousand. The

result is the more curious because almost everybody agrees now that, with all their expenses, national lawmakers are quite underpaid at ten thousand a year.

~~101113~~  
The Office of the Ration Board in ~~San Antonio~~  
~~Early~~, received an urgent telephone appeal.  
A woman said her son was in the southwest  
Pacific, wanted to come home to her, but had not  
enough points according to the Army's recent ruling.  
So, said she, to the ~~ration~~ board clerk, "won't  
you please give me some points so I can send them to  
him?"

It took the clerk quite a while to explain  
to the Stamford lady the difference between the  
points you need for a steak and the points you need  
for a discharge from the Army. If they were the  
same, any woman could get her son out for three and  
a half pounds of butter.

*And now Goodnight*