

B-29s HIT NUMBER TWO JAP CITIES

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GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY:

As you no doubt have heard, all of the major cities of Japan have been knocked out by the B-29s. That is, the pictures, and every raid is photographed in careful detail -- show that the industries in those cities have been flattened, the docks knocked out, the rail centers smashed, and the populations have either fled or been wiped out.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Power, who commands one of the B-29 Bombardment wings here in the Marianas, has just been telling me that the heat generated by the bombs his boys are now dropping on Japan, is so great, that over great areas everything is burned out, and even the underground wiring and pipes must be melted.

Having run out of major cities to use as targets, the B-29s are now turning their attention to Japan's Number Two cities. I was at one of the fields when the boys came back from their latest long night run to the main Japanese islands, and then sat with

them as they had their coffee and sandwiches and went through the usual interrogation. More than four hundred Superfortresses took part in this great raid on three cities: Shizuoka and Toyohashi on the large island of Honshu, and Fukuoka on Kyushu. The report they brought back was that all three have been virtually wiped off the map. As the big bombers flew south toward their bases here in the Marianas, at a distance of 120 miles off the coast of Japan, they still could see the fires, the flames from the burning cities. The score to date: 14 cities of Japan have been reduced to ashes.

The lads I spent some hours with had just returned from the bombing of Shizuoka, an industrial center 85 miles southwest of Tokyo, on the coast between Yokohama and Nagoya, a city with a pre-war population of around a quarter of a million. Until this raid it may have had as many as four hundred thousand people.

Lieutenant Steve Franko of Struthers, Ohio, was the pilot of one of the planes that went in early in the raid. The name of his ship: "Boeing Wichita 1000." In other words, the name tells the story that it was the one-thousandth B-29 turned out at that one Superfortress plant in Wichita. Franko reported that his crew had sighted no Jap fighters, except some of those strange balls of fire from jet planes that never came near them. And he and all the other airmen I talked to, Captain Tim Holt, stalwart son of Jack Holt, was one of them -- they all reported that they encountered far less flak than they used to run into when they bombed Tokyo and the other larger cities. It was the twelfth mission for "Wichita 1000," and only once has she even been hit by flak, when they hit Yokahama.

The boys are still talking about the May 29th

raid on Yokohama. They say that was about the toughest one of all. Last March I spoke at an airfield in Mississippi, at Columbus. The Commandant, a veteran Army flier, Colonel L. C. Mallory, who set a record at that field, an all-time record for airmen turned out with the lowest number of casualties -- Colonel Mallory introduced me to his daughter who in turn introduced me to her little baby boy, and she remarked that she hoped I'd meet his father some day, that he was out here somewhere with the B-29s. Well, today, at this interrogation, I ran into him, Lt.Col. Rufe Holloway. And he told me that on the Yokohama raid the planes on either side of him were hit, while his ship came through unscathed. He said the reason was that he was wearing his baby, Mallory Holloway's, tiny stockings around his neck.

At another rough plank table I sat for a while with eleven lads of one crew, all wearing bright red baseball caps. The Chief Pilot, a Major Luther Jones,

for four years an instructor in the States, said they went in over Shizuoka about 45 minutes after the first plane dropped its bombs, and that the entire city was a mass of flame. Airmen who are still in training back home will be interested in one of his remarks. He says that flying B-29s on missions over Japan is easier than flying them, during all those months of training, back in the States. He says that in the first place the maintenance job done by the ground crews is better out here; and that in the second place, you just fly up to Honshu or Kyushu, drop your bombs, return to your base, and that's all there is to it. While at home there is an endless aftermath of talk, criticism, lectures and so on.

One chap who came in from this latest night run to Japan, is a Major Harold McNeese, from Fort Wayne. "Mac," so I was told, could have any job in the Air Force that he wants. But all he wants to do is bomb Japan. Long ago he finished a tour of fifty-six

missions, in B-24s, in the Southwest Pacific, in the Solomons, New Guinea and against the Japs at Rabaul. He said he hadn't run into any of the Jap suicide boys. That on the contrary, they seem to prefer to live, so they play around, and do barrel rolls off at a respectful distance. Some of the other lads said that the Jap naval airmen are better fliers and bore right in.

In telling about this mission on which they dropped a thousand tons of explosive and incendiary bombs on Shizuoka, Tail Gunner Sgt. Bob De Angelis of Brooklyn said that the scene below them looked like the end of the world. He can't figure out how the Japs can stick it out.

Over the target some of the huge planes shot up from nine thousand feet to eleven thousand in the bat of an eye, because of the thermal draft, from the raging fires, the burning Jap city. In the "City of Monroe,"-all the B-29s are now named for cities, and only one plane to a city -- the nude figures have been

taken off them. The B-29s are considered too big and dignified to carry pictures of glamour girls -- well, in the City of Monroe, there was a big water jug on a shelf just above the navigator, Lieutenant Bob Landregan, of Chicago. When that thermal draft shot the plane up 2,000 feet quicker than you can say Shizuoka, down came the jug on Bob's head. Whereupon the flight engineer sang out: "Stars at six o'clock!" Meaning, just as they sing out, "Enemy at two o'clock," that the navigator was seeing Stars at six o'clock from being knked on the head by the waterjug. They all roared with laughter at this. They laugh easily, these boys who are pounding the daylights out of Japan. It's a lot tougher going than they admit. But for every American airman who is lost over Japan, probably ten thousand Japanese lives are snuffed out. We don't yet know whether air power can win a war. But, if the Mikado doesn't decide to call it a day, then these youngsters are prepared to go right on with their bombing

until there isn't a city, or a town of any size,
left in the Mikado's empire.

Oh yes, our own losses on this latest raid?
Out of more than four hundred and fifty B-29s that
flew north into the night, so far all but two have
returned. And now, so long, and all the way back to the
NBC in New York.

STILWELL

Good evening everybody

General MacArthur has appointed a successor to the late General Simon Bolivar Buckner, Commander of the 10th Army now on Okinawa. The new head of the 10th is none other than General Joseph W. Stilwell, popularly known as Vinegar Joe.

This is considered good news. It means that Stilwell with his experience ^{and his} ~~his~~ fighting capacity, will be one of the top commanders in the battle for Japan. Just now he's touring the battle-fronts and training areas, but he will take over the command of the 10th as soon as he can reach Okinawa.

Recently Stilwell told correspondents that ~~we~~ we shall need an Army of at least five hundred thousand men to invade Japan.

As for Okinawa, that battle is all over. Admiral Nimitz made the definite announcement about noon. After eighty-two days of the bloodiest fighting ever seen, ~~certainly the bloodiest in the Pacific war,~~ the Jap resistance finally comes to an end.

American officers figure that our men have

killed approximately ninety-thousand Japanese. By contrast our own 10th Army suffered only thirty thousand casualties. Severe enough, but small compared to Japanese losses. What is more, only a comparatively few of our casualties were killed. On Tuesday we had taken only two thousand, five hundred and sixty-five Japanese prisoners.

The enemy tried everything. Our men took everything they had and gave it back with interest. They killed the Japs at the rate of more than a thousand a day. The pillboxes they destroyed with demolition charges. Many of the enemy were literally burned to death with flame throwers.

The advantage of it all is, of course, that we now have an ideal springboard for the invasion of Japan itself.

ADD STILWELL

Another message just came in from General MacArthur. The Australians under his command have ~~made~~ made another landing on Borneo. They went ashore at a place called Lutong. That is in the center of another rich area of refineries and oil wells. It is eighty miles down the coast from Brunei Bay. The Diggers ~~met~~ met with no opposition from the Japs.

CHINA

Chinese troops advancing toward Hangchow Bay have crossed the Wu River. They have advanced thirty-one miles beyond Wenchow. Usually the dispatches from Chungking represent these advances as the result of dramatic ~~Japanese~~ ^{Chinese} victories. But tonight they admit that the Japanese are withdrawing. As a matter of fact, it has come to light that all the Chinese advances recently were due to the deliberate retreat of the Japanese armies. As soon as it became evident that the Mikado was bound to lose Okinawa, the Japs began shortening their line on the mainland. This is not intended to ~~depreciate~~ ^{depreciate} the war effort of the Chinese.

DOOLITTLE

Jimmy Doolittle, one of the greatest living fliers, is not allowed to do any combat flying. This came to light at Washington today. The reason is logical. But it's pretty tough on the General who led the first raid on Tokyo in Nineteen Forty-two. General Doolittle was grounded by his chief, General Toohey Spaatz, Chief of the Strategic Air Forces in Europe. The reason is that the Army is not taking any chances that any officers who know over-all-strategy may fall into the hands of the enemy.

General Doolittle is in Washington and told this to newspapermen. His famous Eighth Air Force is now in the United States, with headquarters at Colorado Springs. The men are undergoing fresh training for tactical bombing in the Pacific. They will soon be joining the B-29s in an accelerated campaign to smash the Japanese home islands.

Incidentally Doolittle emphatically agrees with ~~the~~ what General Eisenhower said yesterday. Jimmy

~~stated~~ ^{stated}: "Everything I have seen convinces me we must have

unity of command". And he continued: "That is another way of saying -- a single department of national defense with the supreme commander able to direct the over-all operation".

(4) German industrialists have elaborate plans

for financing the underground activities of the Nazis in the coming years. And they are all set to re-arm Germany. So said Senator Harley Kilgore of West Virginia today. He just returned from Germany. He declared that these German industrialists are masquerading as neutral businessmen ~~and~~ without political allegiance. Nevertheless they are pledged to a third German try-at conquering the world.

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Senator Kilgore says he has documentary proof. For instance, he has a confidential report of a conference between German industrialists at Straasbourg last August. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate plans to create a strong German empire as soon as possible.

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As a matter of fact, the greatest German industrialist of all is in British hands. That is Alfred Krupp, head of the great firm of that name. ^{— • —} British military police arrested him last Tuesday. They have him in a secret place of confinement. ~~A high ranking British~~

And now Goodnight