

AIR WAR

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, June 28, 1945

Everywhere I am asked the question: Do you think it will be possible for us to blast the Japanese into submission without a land invasion of the Mikado's ~~imperial~~ empire -- the main islands? Can the Far Eastern war be brought to a conclusion with air power playing the deciding and final role? I don't know the answer. Nor do I know anyone else who knows it. And that goes for all of our top military people. But, there are some among them who think we ought to delay it, before we run the risk of a great land invasion that might cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of our boys. Only time will tell what our master strategy is going to be. Only time will tell whether we are going to try the experiment, attempt to ~~knock~~ knock Japan out with more and more loads of bombs ~~knock~~ dropped from the skies. At any rate, that air war on Japan continued apace today -- the B-29s attacking three of the Mikado's

important seaports, and blasting a Jap army training center as well. A communique states that the B-29s were over Japan in "very great strength". That probably means that more than four hundred of them took part in the raid. It may mean a good many more than that, because we have been stepping up B-29 production, and on the homeward trip across the Pacific on islands everywhere we passed B-29s, on their way to the advanced bases, to take part in the air war.

As General Arnold has announced, before long, the air Force will have twice as many of the Superfortresses in the skies over Japan. And, as has been announced, the Eighth Air Force is on its way there to occupy bases on Okinawa, and other islands.

The ports smashed in this latest raid were Sasebo, Moji, and Nobeoka. Moji and Nobeoka were getting it for the first time. Sasebo had been

attacked at least once before. As for the Japanese Army training center, that was ripped and smashed, by high explosive and incendiary bombs. This was located at Okayama on the main island of Honshy, approximately one hundred miles west of the great city of Osaka, which already has been flattened.

 pilots
The B-29s/are now doing pin-point precision bombing. Having knocked out most of the major targets,, the greater cities, they are going after particular industries, vital docks, arsenals, and so on.

I can just see our airmen coming back to their bases on Saipan, Tinian and Guam; those tremendous planes, so big you'd hardly think they could fly, dropping gracefully onto the tremendously long runways at their home bases, with the ground crews all out to see them come in, and hoping that none will be missing; and, with the Group and Wing Commanders, and the members

of their staffs, "sweating it out", standing there watching those stormy Far Pacific skies, checking the Superfortresses as they swing in a wide circle and then come in over the palms for a landing.

You remember Shorty Whelass, the flier President Roosevelt told about? Remember how ~~xxx~~ the President devoted half of one of his Fireside Chats to the story of Shorty Whelass and his great exploit early in the war, when his plane got into trouble, was forced to drop out of a formation and then had to fight it out alone with about half of the Jap Air Force? We haven't heard of Shorty Whelass for nearly two years. I'll confess I had almost forgotten him. But out there at one of those B-29 bases, a little fellow, with a Colonel's Eagles on his shoulders came over and thanked me for something I had said and written about him. It was Shorty Whelass. He is now with the B-29s, one

of the top officers at a big tropical field. And he was sweating it out as his lads were straggling back, one by one, from one of the great raids on Japan.

Today's news tells us that in this latest raid the Japanese at that army training center, at the place called Okayama, were shaken off the floor where they were sleeping by a crash of bombs quickly followed by the crackle of flames from the incendiaries.

The twenty-fourth consecutive day that the B-29s have been sent out by Generals Barney Giles and Curtis LeMay. During that time they have dropped more than thirty thousand tons of bombs on Japan. And judging from the pictures that our reconnaissance fliers take, the results are as great as our airmen got in Europe when they dropped three hundred thousand tons of bombs. That is, one ton of bombs dropped on ~~Japan~~ Japan does as much damage as ten tons

of bombs dropped on Germany, because of the new types of bombs, and the ~~imfxi~~ inflammability of the Japanese cities.

The pictures taken so far show us ~~that~~ that our B-29s have completely destroyed and have burned out, a total area of one hundred and fifteen square miles in fourteen of Japan's largest industrial cities.

JAPAN

The Japanese are ^{said to be} turning out secret weapons, suicide weapons in huge quantities. Also, ~~they are~~ training hordes of men in the use of these weapons, one man to each. So said the Tokyo radio today.

They've established suicide corps bases throughout the Japanese islands, and they are making these weapons in such numbers that they will almost equal the total number of tanks and guns used in the European war.

The head of the Mikado's government called a consultation of all former Prime Ministers. Among them was Tojo, the Prime Minister responsible for the attack on Pearl Harbor. They drew up plans for decentralizing Japanese war industries. ~~As everybody~~ ^{They say they} expected, ~~they~~ will continue to carry on the war even ^{and} after the Allies have overrun the Japanese home islands.

ADD JAPAN

A ^{Tokyo} broadcast, ~~later in the~~ ^{to} day, indicated how jittery the official nerves have become in the Mikado's capital. The Tokyo radio ~~broadcast~~ ^{issuance}, a warning to the Japanese people, telling them to expect an attack from the North. According to that ~~xxx~~ broadcast the U. S. Ninth fleet, commanded by Vice Admiral Frank Fletcher, is operating in the North Pacific.

The Japs claim to have further information that an American Mountain Division is on the ~~ix~~ island of Igattu in the Aleutians. This is all ready to embark at any moment. We are also supposed to have paratroopers stationed throughout the Aleutian islands. The Tokyo radio ~~also reported that we have~~ ^{says speaks of} a big ^{American} submarine base on the island of Kiska.

The inference is that we are ready to attack them from the northern skies, and as the northern parts

of Japan are mountainous, that ~~is, high~~, we are holding the mountaineering division in readiness for invasion. ~~All this, of course, is just a Japanese nightmare.~~

So you see what kind of nightmares the Japanese are having!

CHINA

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek says China needs more help -- economic help. And, there is no doubt but what he is right. In spite of the fact that our airmen have been taking a huge tonnage over "the Hump," that's only a dribble compared to what the Chinese need. But, it has kept China in the war.

The Generalissimo held his first press ~~xxxxxx~~ conference since Nineteen Forty-one, and told newspaper men that a Chinese soldier properly trained and equipped can fight as well as any soldier in the world. If it took us and the British two years to ~~fx~~ defeat Japan, says Chiang, Chinese troops ~~wx~~ could do it in a year. Well, we'd all like to see them handle the job.

The Generalissimo admitted that the United States has been giving much ~~as~~ assistance, equipment and training to his forces. But he says not enough attention

has been paid to China's ~~own~~ economic difficulties.

Meanwhile the war news from Chungking is that the Japs have retreated still further on the China coast. They abandoned the port of Tiachow and are now withdrawing toward Ningpo.

Further southeast they also gave up their important railway center at Liuchow. The communique from the Chinese high command claims that Liuchow fell after a battle that lasted a week. How intense a battle is a question. It probably is all just a part of the general Japanese withdrawal; shortening their lines, getting set for the final struggle when our forces strike suddenly at the mainland of Asia - if that's where they are going to strike. The Japs have the jitters about that.

BERGE

Some may have had the mistaken
~~Many people have the~~ impression that Germany was
Just about
~~has been completely~~ wiped out, *from the air. Well,*
that's far from true. ~~It's a mistake.~~

A few weeks ago an official dispatch reported that sixty percent of the German industrial capacity was virtually undamaged. Today we learn that actually, in spite of the terrific bombing attacks and artillery bombardments by the Allies, three-quarters if not more, of Germany's industrial capacity is untouched. The authority for this is Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge. He told it to a committee of Senators investigating the German resources for another war.

In the steel and ~~the~~ chemical industries Berge said: "It is particularly true that three-quarters or more of German manufacturing capacity is relatively intact." Investigations by our officers since D-Day also showed another fact. With all the damage our bombers did to the Nazi oil plants, they were ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

repairing them so quickly that by September they would have been going full blast again. Many of these are underground.

Germany was on the point of developing new and terrible instruments of destruction. Many of these were long-distance rockets and explosives.

The Assistant Attorney General went on to tell the Senators that German research institutions, laboratores and technological organizations are now operating without control, in spite of the Allied occupation. These technological facilities, he said, are the heart and substance ^{of} ~~for~~ Germany's capacity to rebuild for another war. He declared further that at this moment German industrialists are planning a seven-point recovery program. They hope to keep industry untouched by the occupation. They hope to maintain the core of organized research,

technical
and ~~technical~~ facilities. They hope to continue
the economic domination of Europe, to maintain their
world-wide cartel system, to retain what they stole in
other countries during the war. They ~~we~~ hope to
rebuild their industries by giving American and
British manufacturers a share in their undertakings.
Furthermore, they hope to retain the physical,
political and economic basis of their military power.

Does this sound contradictory, in view
of all that has been said about the part played by
air power, and contradictory to the statement of Field
Marshal Von Rundstedt greatest of the German leaders,
who said straight out that Germany had lost because
~~we~~ she was beaten down from the skies? No, the point
is that in our own minds, we may have had an
exaggerated picture. What Von Rundstedt said ~~it~~ was that
Allied air power had paralyzed German transportation,

and war industries in such a way that it was impossible for Germany to continue the war. And that's what our people are trying to do now in the war against Japan. It would take ~~an~~ almost forever to blot out all industries in the country.

ITALY

Uncle Sam's forces are going to be withdrawn from Italy. So ^{ya} said General McNarney, Commander of the U.S. Forces in the Mediterranean. U.S. occupation of the peninsula virtually will be concluded by the end of the year. All that will be left ^{then} will be a few ground men and air troops scheduled for re-deployment. Fifty thousand men are being shipped direct to the Pacific from Italy, ~~and~~ most of them have ^{gone} ~~gone~~ already. Nearly all of them ^{are being} ~~were~~ personnel of the service forces.

One town in eastern Italy was reported today as being in the hands of a mob armed with rifles and hand-grenades. It has blocked all the roads leading to Angria. This has been going on since Monday.

The national police had arrested thirteen bandits. After pulling off several Wild West ~~mixup~~ hold-ups, they finally attacked a train in the manner of Jesse James. The ^{purpose} ~~purpose~~ of this ^{is} ~~is~~ attack ~~was~~ to get

goods to sell in the black market.

On Monday the mob^l attacked the jail in order to release the thirteen hold-up men. One of the hand-grenades thrown by the mob wounded a policeman who later died in the hospital. The rabble then released forty-seven people from the prison and seized control of the town. The Prefect of Police ordered his men to remain in ~~xxx~~ their barracks.

CHARTER

On the floor of the Senate ~~Senator~~ Tom Connally
of Texas today began ^a ~~one of the most~~ historic ~~of all~~
debates, the debate ^{on the world} ~~over the~~ Charter. This ~~was~~ ^{he did}
~~appropriate as Connally~~ ^{is} Chairman of the Foreign
Relations Committee of the Senate. ^{TP Sen. Connally spoke} ~~He spoke only~~
through the courtesy of Senator Bilbo of Mississippi,
"the man Bilbo," as he likes to call himself, ^{who} ~~the man~~
had the floor, ^{at the time, Bilbo is still conducting his} ~~because he was running a~~ one man
filibuster to kill the ^{Fair} ~~Unfair~~ Employment Practice
Committee. ~~But~~ ^{Sen.} ~~he~~ yielded to Connally, ^{today,} ~~out of respect.~~
~~to the occasion.~~

^{Tom}
Said ^{Tom} Connally: "It is my ~~happy~~ privilege to
announce to the Senate that we have brought back a
comprehensive Charter which we trust will meet the
approval of the people of the Senate and the people of
the United States. ~~And he added:~~ "It is my confident
~~belief that with ratification by the United States~~

TRUMAN

These have been great days in Kansas City.

Last week the town turned out for ^{Gen.} ~~Mr.~~ Eisenhower.

Today, ^{again} ~~they yelled themselves hoarse~~ for another favorite son, President Truman.

The Pres.

[^]He spoke to them in their own language, using good old Missouri idioms. As they jammed the quadrangle of the University of Kansas, the place where he earned his law degree, Mr. Truman said: "I cannot for the life of me understand what makes people say, 'There he goes,' when I go down the street now." Then he added: "It swells me out like a pizened pup."

He told the crowd that ^{when} ~~he~~ was County judge he used to be able to call thousands of people in the County by their first names. He added that he hoped he would never lose that ability. Then he said: "I can't be the President of the United States in Jackson County. I'm just the County Judge *here.*"

Later on, he joined his former classmates and fellow townsmen at a picnic lunch.

This morning at Independence, ^{Mo.,} he got up early just like any other native of the Show Me State, ~~and~~ carried in the paper from the front porch, had a plain family breakfast and then started for his office in the Federal building at Kansas City. It was the same office he had occupied as Vice President and as United States Senator. The only thing different about it was a sign which read: "Office of the President."

In the course of the day he visited the mens' wear store run by Eddie Jacobson. Eddie was in the same battery as the President when he was an officer of artillery in France during the last war. After the war they joined up in the haberdashery business, which did not succeed.

Mr. Truman visited the store just to chat with Eddie a little and to buy three new shirts. And he had just as much luck as most other men have these days. Not a shirt in the house!

And now Hugh -- it's good to see you again!