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ROBERT BROWNING

By Augustus Muir

(Continued from the last issue)

詩人白朗寧

The middle portion of Browning's life, the years of supreme happiness which he spent with his wife in Italy, was the time when he wrote most of his finest poetry. They had a beautiful house in Florence, where they revelled in the Italian sunshine, and they made pilgrimages to other towns where they could enjoy the beauties of painting and sculpture.

Browning was one of the most cosmopolitan of English poets, for he placed the scene of many of his poems outside his native shores. But his love for his own land comes out strikingly every now and then.

As for Elizabeth, her health had greatly improved, and she had written

白朗寧的中年，同他的妻子

一起住在意大利，是他生平最快

樂的時期，最精采的詩，也是在

這個時期內寫成的。他們在斐冷

翠有一宅很美的房子，享受意大

利和暖的陽光；他們時常出外旅

行，鑑賞各地的名畫和彫刻。

白朗寧是英國最國際化的一

個詩人，他的作品中有許多背景

都是外國的。但是他對祖國的愛

好，却時常在詩中流露出來。

至於依利莎白，她的健康已

大見進步，她已寫了許多詩，如

poems that have placed her among the very greatest English women poets—if, indeed, she is not the greatest of all, as Browning himself thought. Her death, after fifteen years of almost unbroken happiness, was a shattering blow to him, and for two years he was in despair.

The lonely and saddened man turned to his work for solace; and, still under the influence of his wife's great love, he wrote his longest and most important work, *The Ring and the Book*. How this came to be written is a romance in itself, and the story of its origin adds to our enjoyment of a narrative that is full of colour and suspense and dramatic action. Browning returned to England and settled down to work in London. It is significant that his later work suffered from the lack of Elizabeth's inspiration

果她不是依她丈夫所認為的英國最偉大的女詩人，至少能在英國最偉大的女詩人中爭得一個顯著的地位。過了十五年連續不斷的快樂生活她就閉目長逝了，這對白朗寧是一個莫大的打擊，此後二年內他無日不在灰心絕望過活。

這位孤獨傷心的詩人，便在工作中尋找安慰；在他夫人愛的偉大影響下，他寫成了他的最長，或許也是最重要的詩—戒指與書。寫這本書的經過情形是足夠耐人興味的羅曼斯，它的起源使我們加倍欣賞這色彩濃，劇情緊張的故事。不久白朗寧回到英國，安居在倫敦。他後期的作品，缺少依莉莎白的靈感和批評；這一層頗關重要。雖然都有他個

and critical advice, and many of his last poems, have passages that are obscure and difficult, although all of them are built upon the strong foundation of Browning's virile philosophy of life. He was an optimist who regarded pessimism as a deadly sin. He believed that life should be lived strenuously, and that the casting out of evil was a necessary process of the soul's development. On the last page of his last book, *Asolando*, published on the day of his death, he speaks in his own robust way of:

One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,

Never doubted clouds would break,

Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,

Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,

Sleep to wake.

人的積極的人生哲學做基礎他最

後的詩有很多部份都很晦澀難懂

• 他是一個樂觀的人，把悲觀主

義看做是最大的罪惡。他認為做

人應該勤奮；驅逐罪惡是靈魂發

展過程中一個必要的步驟。他最

後的一本詩是在去世的日子出版

的，名「阿沙蘭德」，在最後一

頁上有這幾行剛強的詩句。

一個人從不同頭，只是挺胸

前進，

從不懷疑烏雲必散，

從不夢想，暴力會勝利，雖

然正義受了挫折，

相信我們跌交一定再起，

受到挫折，奮勇得更利害，

睡覺，為的蘇醒。

'Allies Maintain Great Pressure On Japan Despite Assault On Europe'

• "Measured in terms of territory regained,² the progress made the South-West Pacific during the past two years has been remarkable³ even when allowance is made for the vast distances of Asia and the Pacific,"⁴ says a "special correspondent of the Times⁵ who was lately in that "theatre of operations."⁶

"Measured in other terms," he says, "progress has been equally significant."⁷ The

• favourable turn taken by the naval war in the European theatre⁸ has enabled the American Navy to "concentrate nearly all its attention⁹ on the Pacific. • Thanks to the different strategic requirements of the two theatres¹⁰ it has been possible • to prosecute the war¹¹ in the Pacific energetically¹² and • without weakening the basic policy of beating Germany first.¹³ While the emphasis¹⁴ in Europe is on

That is the authentic Browning note—a clarion call to labour!

That call has today a greater potency and value than ever; for in the years immediately before us, a new and better world is waiting to be built by the labour of men who, in the poet's words, will march breast forward.

這確是白朗寧的真正的呼聲

——召赴工作的號角。

這呼聲，在今日較往日更有

力量更有意義，因為此後數年，

人們必須出力建造一個新的美滿

世界，我們（借用詩人的話）必

須挺胸前進。

air and land power, in the Pacific it is on air and sea power.

“The commanders of the Japanese Fleet¹⁵ are indeed being placed in an awkward and humiliating position.¹⁶ They know that one major naval defeat¹⁷ would mean for them a speedy and summary termination of the war¹⁸ whereas it would not have this result for the Americans.¹⁹”

“Progress in the air is keeping pace²⁰ with progress at sea. The number of aircraft allocated to the Pacific theatre²¹ has been small compared with the number sent to Europe, but it has been sufficient to establish air superiority in all sectors.²² What were originally intended to be holding fronts²³ have become offensive fronts.²⁴”

“The margin of Allied air superiority has permitted naval task forces to disrupt

the enemy's supply lines.²⁵ Unlike the German fortress of Europe,²⁶ which relies almost entirely on land communications,²⁷ the Japanese 'Co-prosperity Sphere'²⁸ relies almost on sea communications.²⁹ Only if the Japanese Navy can keep the sea lanes³⁰ open can merchant ships keep the Japanese garrisons supplied³¹ and take back to Japan the raw materials³² required by the armament factories³³ at home.

“The Japanese Navy is failing in this task. Moreover, the Japanese are suffering from a grave shortage of merchant shipping.³⁴ New building is failing to replace losses caused by air, surface and submarine attack.³⁵ Here was the weak point³⁶ of Japan and the Allied High Command³⁷ was quick to perceive and exploit it.³⁸”

NOTES

1. 儘管進攻歐洲，同盟國仍維持對日本的強大壓迫。
2. 就恢復的

Dramatic Biography of Robert Louis Stevenson-A.B.C. Talk

By

Douglas Allan

NARRATOR: Well, boys and girls, there are the flash-
es. How many little scenes were there
from Stevenson's life? Did you get them?
There were six, weren't there? And did
you realize³⁶ where Stevenson was each
time? First he was looking at a light-
house; built by his grandfather, then be-
ing sent by his doctor to the South of
France because he was ill; then buying a
donkey to go climbing mountains in Fran-
ce with; then making up a story about an

地域而言。 3. 驚人。 4. 即令就亞洲與太平洋之廣大距離酌予折扣。
5. 太晤士報特約通信員。 6. 戰場。 7. 有意義，重要。 8. 歐洲戰
場上海戰底有利的轉變。 9. 差不多完全集中它的注意力。 10. 對
歐亞兩戰場不同的戰略需要。 11. 進行戰事。 12. 有力地。 13. 而
不削弱先打倒德國的基本政策。 14. 着重點。 15. 日本的艦隊司令。
16. 困難且屈辱的地位。 17. 海軍大失敗。 18. 敏捷迅速地結束
戰爭。 19. 但是對於美國人一場海戰大敗就不至有此結果。 20. 並
駕齊驅。 21. 分派到太平洋戰場的飛機數目。 22. 在前線之各部分
樹立空中優勢。 23. 採取守勢的前線。 24. 採取攻勢的前線。 25.
盟方空中優勢程度使海軍作戰部隊能够破壞敵人的供應線。 26. 歐
洲堡壘。 27. 幾乎完全靠陸上交通。 28. 日本的共榮圈。 29. 海
上交通。 30. 海上航路。 31. 使日本海軍得到供應。 32. 原料。
33. 兵工廠。 34. 商船異常缺乏。 35. 艦艇因空中地面及潛水潛的
攻擊所受的損失。 36. 弱點。 47. 同盟軍最高統帥部。 38. 知道
並利用它。

imaginary treasure island; then buying a schooner, to go sailing in the South Seas; and last, wishing he could go home to Scotland just once again.

And what is he *doing* all the time? I asked you to find that out. What kind of man was he, I said; what did he like doing?

Yes of course, travelling. Either in fact or imagination. When I think of Stevenson, I think of him as a man who is always on the move. He travelled all his life long. He *loved* travelling. Sometimes because he *had* to go somewhere for the sake of his health. All his books too, are full of movement. Think of 'Treasure Island.' You've read it, I'm sure!

NARRATOR:

And now what would you like to hear? Something more about those flashes, I think. But we haven't time for all of them. So which is it to be? Let's see. Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. His father and grandfather were famous 'lighthouse engineers,' and it was hoped that Robert Louis too would become a lighthouse engineer, but even although he loved sailing around the coasts of Scotland and looking at the lighthouse his grandfather had built, like the one on the Bell Rock, he didn't want to be an engineer.

He wanted to write books. And the first books he wrote were about some of his travels.³ So shall we hear first something about his travels with Modestine the donkey? Listen. Everybody in the village was surprised when Stevenson departed taking Modestine and he was not quite sure that he had done a good thing in buying Modestine [•]once he set out on his travels.⁴ When the road began to mount⁵ through the [•]pine woods,⁶ he would give her a whack⁷ with a stick, and for about three steps she would [•]quicken her pace,⁸ but for three steps only. And then she would go at her old pace, which was slower than a walk. It was the slowest journey Stevenson had ever made.

Then a tall peasant approached.⁹ He stopped to look at Stevenson and Modestine. Then he said, "Your donkey is very old?" Stevenson said, No, he thought not. "Then," said the man, "I suppose you must have come very far." Stevenson said, No, he had just started. Then the man began to laugh and laugh, and said, "You are going at that pace? Ha! —the only thing to do is to have no pity on these animals." And he plucked¹⁰ a thick branch and began to beat Modestine as hard as he could, shouting all the time. Modestine [•]pricked up her ears¹¹

and *set off at a good round pace.¹² Obviously she had been just pretending. So the man gave Stevenson the branch and told him that the thing to do was to shout "Proot!" every now and again. So off Stevenson went, shouting "proot!" For the rest of the forenoon Modestine *did wonders.¹³ But alas, after dinner she was back at her old tricks.¹⁴ Stevenson, prooted like a lion, he prooted like a *sucking dove,¹⁵ but Modestine kept on at her old slow pace. Once when she looked round at Stevenson, she looked so like a lady he knew that he was horrified¹⁶ by his own cruelty towards the poor beast. It was *blazing hot,¹⁷ the sweat ran down into Stevenson's eyes, and at last the pack¹⁸ on the donkey's back—sleeping-bag,¹⁹ food, wine, *spirit lamp,²⁰ candles, coat, shirts, chocolate,²¹ sausages,²² everything *came adrift²³ from the beast's back and there they were hanging under her belly.²⁴ Modestine *stopped dead,²⁵ turned her head to Stevenson, and seemed to smile.

Well, that was the beginning of Stevenson's *Travels with a Donkey.²⁶

And now, what was the next flash? It was the one about Sam asking Stevenson to tell him a story. You'll want to know of course, who Sam was. When Steven-

son was in France he met an American lady, Fanny Osborne, *fell in love with her²⁷ and married her. She had been married before and had one son, Sam. Stevenson brought Sam to Scotland and they went on a visit to Braemar,²⁸ in the Highlands.

The weather was very bad when the Stevensons were there, and often young Sam Lloyd Osborne became tired of sitting in the house and finding very little to do.

This is what happened one day.

STEVENSON: Let me try to point something for you.

SAM: I know—it looks like an island!

STEVENSON: A good idea. It is an island.

SAM: I wonder what kind of an island it is? Is it *flat or hilly?²⁹

STEVENSON: Oh, I think it should have some hills. We'll put some hills here in the south and some more in the west over here.

SAM: What about trees?

STEVENSON: Oh, we must have some trees—not on the hills, of course, but we'll put some trees on the *flat bits.³⁰ There—and there—and there.

SAM: That's a very big bay³¹ down in the right hand corner. I think you should have another island—a *wee one³² in the bay.

STEVENSON: Right.

SAM: And give it a name. Call the little one—er.....er.....Skeleton Island!

- STEVENSON: But if the little one is having a name, surely the big one should have one.
- SAM: I know—Treasure Island—because there's "buried treasure"³³ on it.
- STEVENSON: Good. Now we'll have some red paint,³⁴ and we'll "mark the site"³⁵ of the buried treasure with a "red cross."³⁶ There!
- SAM: And put in a boat a weat do you call it—a galleon³⁷—sailing somewhere near the island. Couldn't you make up a story about it?
- STEVENSON: A story. Yes. A story about buried treasure and mutinies³⁸ "on boare ship"³⁹—and a strange old seaman.⁴⁰
- SAM: Make the old seaman have a cut⁴¹ on his cheek.
- STEVENSON: Yes, a sabre⁴² cut, and he's singing in a high "cracked voice"⁴³—
 "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest"⁴⁴
 "Yo—ho—ho and a bottle of rum."⁴⁵
- SAM: Oh yes. It's going to be a fine story.
- STEVENSON: And who else? An old blind man, trapping⁴⁶ his way along the road with his stick. A cruel old man—add something a Black spot—a "secret sign."⁴⁷ Yes, that's how I'll begin my story. Treasure Island.
- NARRATOR: And that was how Treasure Island was begun. Stevenson went on writing it, a chapter every day. Sometimes I think he would read bits to Sam.

- SAM:** Let's hear some more.
- STEVENSON:** Well, now where had we got to? Oh yes, *Jim Hawking⁴⁸ has left England to find the Treasure.
- SAM:** Yes, and on the ship he had gone to sleep in the *apple barrel.⁴⁹
- STEVENSON:** That's right. While in the apple barrel he heard Long John Silver *persuading the crew to mutiny⁵⁰ and take the ship and treasure for themselves. Here's how it goes.
- In I got bodily⁵¹ into the apple barrel, and found there was scarce an apple left; but, sitting down there in the dark, what with the sound of the waters and the rocking⁵² movement of the ship, I had either fallen a sleep or was *on the point of doing so,⁵³ when a heavy man sat down with rather a crash close by. The barrel shook as he leaned his shoulder against it, and I was just about to jump up when the man began to speak. It was Silver's voice, and before I had heard a dozen words, I would not have shown myself for all the world, but lay there, trembling and listening, in the extreme⁵⁴ of fear and curiosity; for, from these dozen words I understood that the lives of all the honest men on board depended upon me alone.
- SAM:** Oh, it's going to be a grand story. Do get on with it quickly.

◎————◎
 : NEW AND VIEWS :
 ◎————◎

1. *Hitler Knows That
 The War Has Entered
 Its 'Final Stage'*

"The war in the West has entered its final stage and the Fuhrer² knows it," says

the "Daily Mail." "He knows too it will end in his downfall," for the one thing he has so long dreaded⁵—"a Combined Anglo-American-Russian offensive"⁶—is at last striking⁷ at his citadel.⁸

NARRATOR: Stevenson did get on with it quickly, and ever since then, boys all over the world have liked to read about Jim Hawkins' adventures in "Treasure Island."

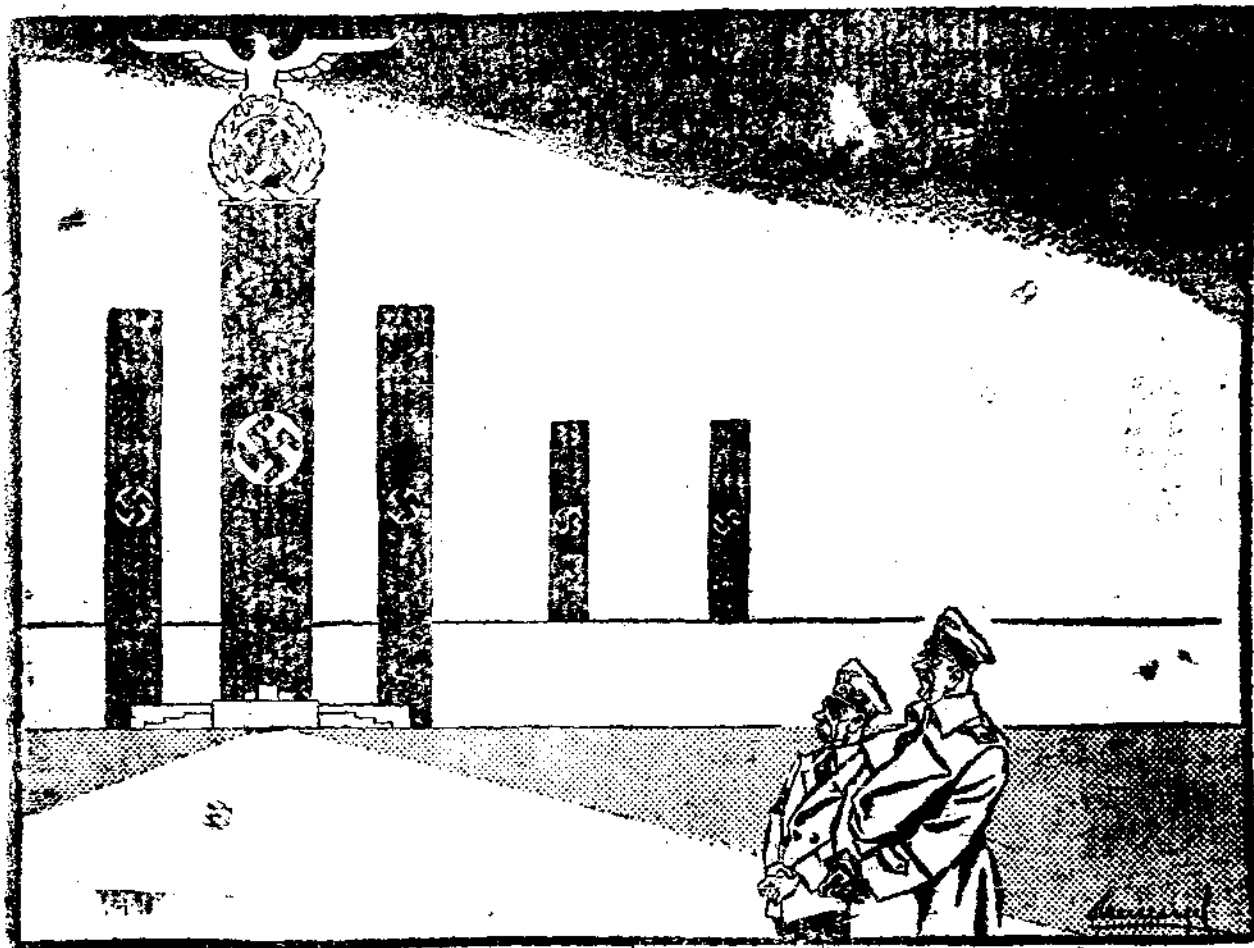
(The end)

N O T E S

1. 明白. 2. 築燈塔的工程師. 3. 旅行. 4. 一旦動身出去旅行. 5. 變高. 6. 松林. 7. 重打. 8. 加快她的步伐. 9. 行近. 10. 拔. 11. 豎起耳朵. 12. 用好而快的步伐登程. 14. 作了驚人之舉. 14. 詭計. 15. 乳鴿. 16. 恐怖. 17. 熾熱. 18. 駭物. 19. 睡囊 (在戶外時睡於其中, 其內面有防寒裝置). 20. 酒精燈. 21. 朱古律糖. 22. 香腸. 23. 滑下. 24. 腹部. 25. 完全停頓. 26. 騎驢旅行記. 27. 愛上了她. 28. 蘇格蘭西北部一個地方, 風景甚好. 29. 平坦的還是崎嶇的. 30. 平坦的小地方. 31. 海灣. 32. 一座極小的島. 33. 埋藏的寶物. 34. 顏料. 35. 額明地址. 36. 紅十字符號. 37. 有三層或四層甲板之大帆船. 38. 額囊. 39. 在船上. 40. 海員. 41. 刀傷. 42. 軍刀. 43. 破曉的聲音. 44. 箱子. 45. 甜酒. 46. 毆擊. 47. 暗號. 48. 少年英雄名. 49. 蘭髮髻. 50. 動水手叛變. 51. 完全. 52. 擲動. 53. 正安睡着. 54. 極端.

"So long as the Allied attacked him separately⁹ he was not dismayed.¹⁰ The German retreated from Stalingrad¹¹ and their expulsion from Africa¹² were hard

blows¹³ but not immediately fatal.¹⁴ But Cherbourg,¹⁵ the new Russian offensive, the advance in Italy¹⁶—these will be fatal blows.¹⁷



YESTERDAY'S GREATNESS

過 去 的 偉 大

"Such blows as these will rain faster and heavier upon Germany until she collapses in utter defeat,¹⁸ for, at last, the three great allies are hitting to a combined and concerted plan.¹⁹ The Germans did everything they could to prevent this plan reaching fruition.²⁰

"They tried to sow distrust among the United Nations.²¹ They hoped to smash any invasion from the west in time to turn and rend the Russians in the east.²² They have attempted to cause dismay among the British people²³ by the use, or the threatened use, of terror weapons.²⁴ All in vain.²⁵

2. *British Prime Minister's Message To China's President*

Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's Prime Minister, has sent a message to President Chiang Kai-Shek on the seventh anniversary of China's war against Japan

in which he says:—"When victory is won in the West, we will bring our whole weight to bear on Japan." "I am confident that the long period of suffering which the Chinese people have endured with such steadfastness and courage will meet its reward and China will be able to play her part as a leader in the civilised development of the world."²⁶

3. *Allied Progress In The Pacific In one Year*

One year ago General MacArthur began in a small way the real Allied offensive in the Pacific, says the Daily Herald.²⁷ Landings were made around New Guinea and in the central Solomons.²⁸ Slowly at first then more dramatically the Japanese protective ring was pierced.²⁹

"In a series of by-passing moves,³⁰ General MacArthur and Admirals Halsey and Nimitz struck northwards³¹

as *their resources grew.⁷ Today they stand on Saipan⁸ in the Marianas,⁹ *1,600 miles within the enemy's defensive perimeter¹⁰ and *only 1,400 miles from Tokyo.¹¹ Tojo,¹² adds the Daily Herald, knows if he loses his navy he has lost all. *His overcrowded land become vulnerable to blockade¹³ and

his *scattered armies denied all help.¹⁴ Yet, he also knows *if he does not soon fling fleet against the sea and air might¹⁵ with which the Allies can now protect¹⁶ each new landing then the attackers will eventually¹⁷ reach Formosa¹⁸ and the *South China mainland.¹⁹

NOTES

(1) 1. 最後階段. 2. 元首 (即希特勒). 3. 每日郵報. 4. 錫台. 5. 害怕的. 6. 一個聯合的英美蘇攻擊陣線. 7. 打擊. 8. 堡壘. 9. 分別的. 10. 他並未驚恐. 11. 德軍自史太林格勒退却. 12. 非洲之被逐出. 13. 嚴重之一擊. 14. 但並非立刻的致命傷. 15. 悲慘. 16. 在意大利之進展. 17. 致命之打擊. 18. 直至其在完全失敗中崩潰. 19. 三大盟國正按照一聯合而和諧之計劃予 (德國) 以打擊. 20. 阻止此計劃之實現. 21. 在聯合國間散佈顆粒的種子. 22. 他們希望掃除自西方來之任何侵略使能有時間調撥在東方之俄軍. 23. 企圖引起英人之驚恐. 24. 可怕的武器. 25. 一切徒然.

(2) 1. 中國抗日戰爭七週年紀念. 2. 吾們將以全部力量施諸日本. 3. 我深信. 4. 堅定與勇氣. 5. 報償. 6. 在世界文明進步中, 中國將能盡其領袖之本分.

(3) 1. 一年中盟軍在太平洋之進展. 2. 每日先驅報. 3. 在新幾內亞四周及中部所羅門羣島上登陸. 4. 然後驚人地日本的保護圈便被突破了. 5. 在一串側面行動之中. 6. 麥克阿瑟將軍霍爾綏和尼米茲海軍上將, 向北進攻. 7. 當他們的資源 (指兵力及武器等) 日益加重. 8. 塞班. 9. 馬利安那羣島. 10. 敵人之防禦線 1600 哩之內. 11. 距東京僅 1400 哩. 12. 東條. 13. 人口過衆之日本本土易遭封鎖. 14. 其分散於各地之軍隊亦將得不到各種援助. 15. 若不立即派遣海軍抵抗盟國海上及空中之武力. 16. 保護. 17. 最後. 18. 台灣. 19. 中國南部大陸.

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