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# O. N. I. WEEKLY

*For the Officers of the United States Navy*

VOL. IV, NO. 23

JUNE 6, 1945



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NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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HEWLETT THÉBAUD,  
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.,  
Director of Naval Intelligence.

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# THE O. N. I. WEEKLY

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## PROGRESS OF THE WAR

### PACIFIC

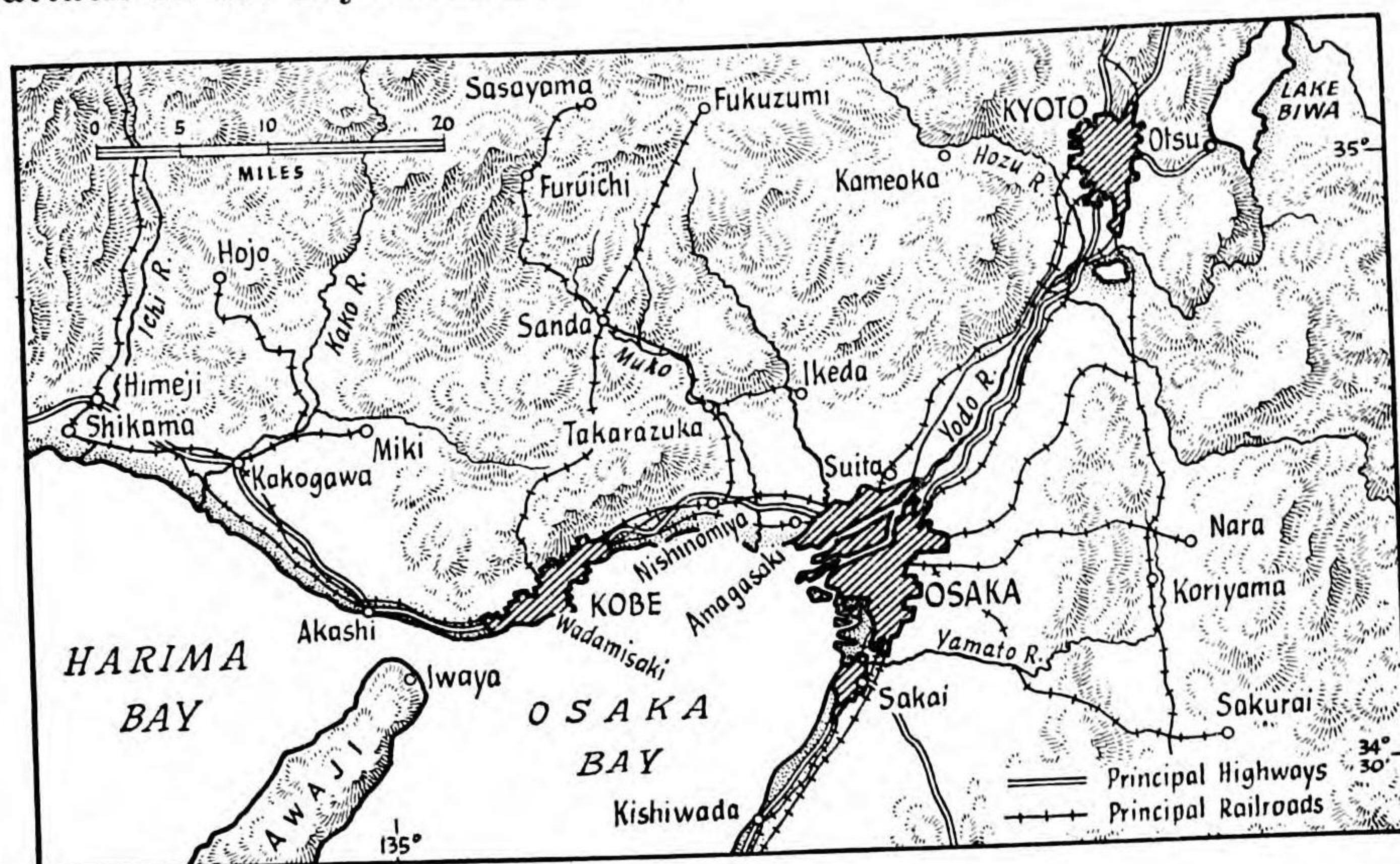
#### Japan

Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. returned to the helm of the Third Fleet this week and announced that his intention was "to beat the hell out of the Japs wherever they may be found." Third Fleet carrier planes, operating from a fast carrier task force commanded by Vice Admiral John S. McCain, made a two-day strike against enemy airfields on Kyushu as the first step toward carrying out Admiral Halsey's aim. Striking first on the 2d, the carrier planes hit airfields at Miyazaki, Kokubu, Kushira, Kagoshima and Chiran, destroying 27 and damaging 25 enemy planes on the ground and shooting down two in the air. In attacks on other targets in the area, two small craft were destroyed in coastal waters and a locomotive was damaged. Returning on the following day, our carrier aircraft shot down six more enemy planes and destroyed an additional three on the ground at Miyakonojo and Kokubu airfields. Enemy opposition prevented some attacks from being carried out. Pilots returning from the strikes reported that strong and skillful enemy air opposition had been met. A new type Japanese fighter was encountered which, according to some of our pilots, outperformed the Corsair, and the enemy pilots were aggressive and well trained. The enemy planes were operating from bases outside the target area of the carrier planes. Twelve of our aircraft were lost.

Osaka and Kobe, Japan's third and sixth largest cities, were the targets for mass assaults by Superfortresses of the Twenty-first Bomber Command this week. Osaka was attacked at mid-morning of the 1st by 460 B-29's. Approximately 2,900 tons of incendiaries were dropped on the target area located south of the Yodo River bordering the harbor. The attackers were favored with a strong west wind which fanned the flames into the city. Fires were seen to be burning in the dock area and throughout the northwest section of the city. Enemy air opposition was generally weak and unaggressive although 90 enemy planes were sighted and 150 to 175 attacks were



made on the bombers. Sixteen enemy planes were shot down by the bombers and eleven were probably destroyed. Of ten Superfortresses lost, only two were known to have been downed by enemy action, having been struck by anti-aircraft fire. Sixteen enemy planes were shot down and eleven probably destroyed. The bad weather which contributed to our bomber losses also turned back most of the Seventh Fighter Command Mustangs scheduled to escort the B-29's and caused a large number of operational losses among them. Osaka, a city of 3,252,340 population, is considered the largest and most important arsenal in Japan. It contains heavy industrial plants, the largest tire factory in the country and important ship yards and ordnance manufacturing plants. New damage caused by the raid covered an area of 3.4 square miles, raising to 11.5 square miles the total burned-out area; more than eight square miles of the city's total area of 71.5 square miles were burned out during the first incendiary attack on the city on March 12th.



The second large-scale attack of the week was directed against Kobe, Japan's principal seaport. On the morning of the 5th, a force of 450 B-29's unloaded some 3,000 tons of incendiary bombs throughout the entire area of the long, narrow city, skipping only the three-mile strip west of the shipyards, burned out in two previous fire raids, February 4th and March 17th. Greatest concentration was achieved in a seven-square-mile area in the eastern section of the city which includes the Kobe Steel Works. Bombing results were considered generally excellent. Enemy fighter opposition was aggressive and for the most part anti-aircraft fire was accurate. Eight B-29's were lost of which seven were downed in the target area. Sixty-two enemy planes were

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claimed destroyed and forty-eight probably destroyed. Bad weather again forced cancellation of the scheduled fighter escort.

Reconnaissance of Yokohama, hit in a mass fire attack on the 29th, shows the south half of the city virtually destroyed. New damage covers 6.9 square miles, bringing the total damage caused by this and previous small attacks, to 8.9 square miles, or 44 per cent of the built-up area of the city.

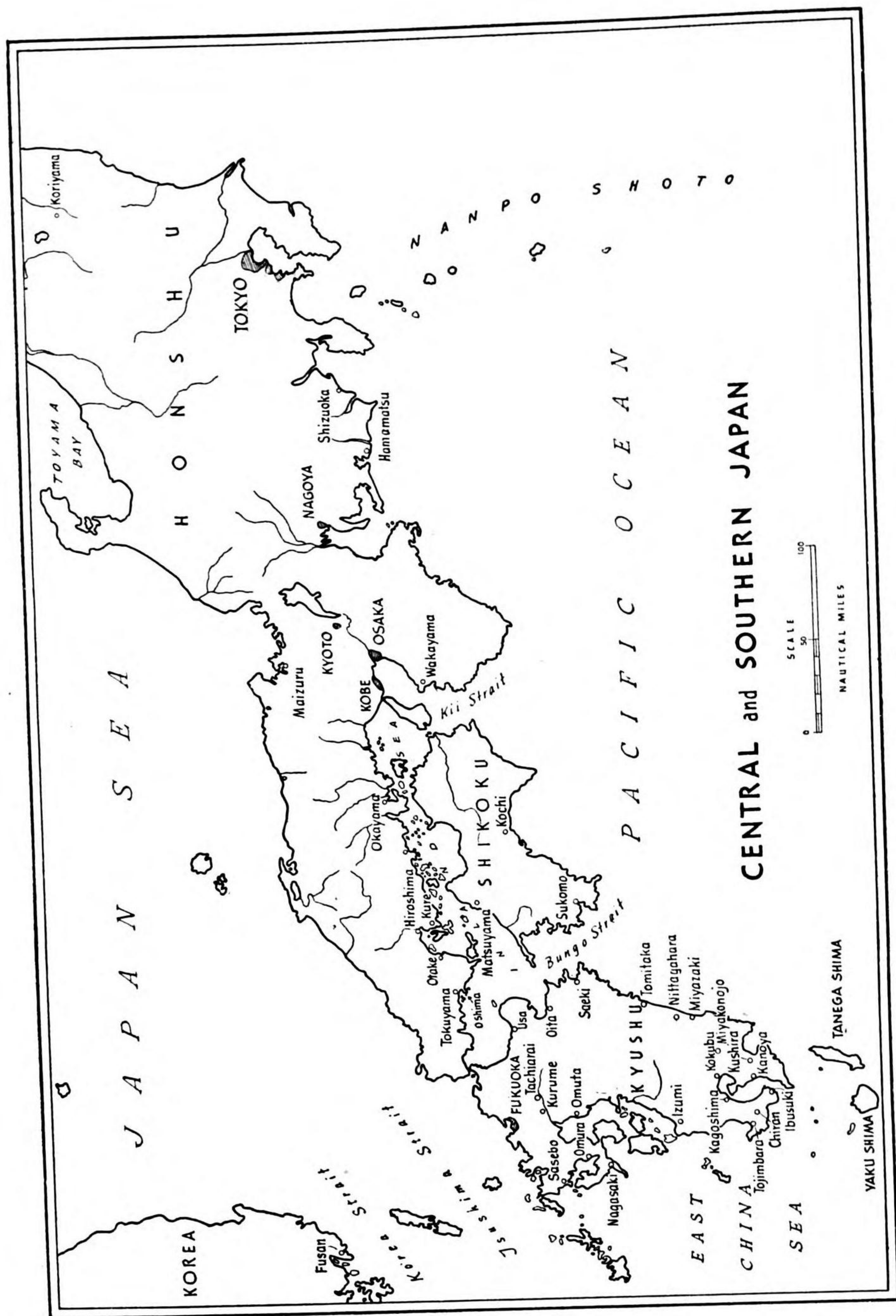
A total of 86 square miles in Japan's five principal cities (Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama and Kobe) has now been destroyed in B-29 incendiary assaults. The *Nippon Times* has asserted that the damage inflicted by the cumulative aerial assaults on Japan's major cities was already "shockingly" great, exceeding that of the 1923 earthquake and fire. The U. S. Chemical Warfare Service has disclosed that at least four types of incendiary bomb are being used in the attacks. Two of these spread or throw a flaming synthetic lava, formed of jellied gasoline, powdered magnesium, liquid asphalt and other ingredients. One of these is the M-76 or "Goop" bomb, a 500-pounder; the other is the M-74, a ten-pounder. The two other types are the 100-pound M-47 and the six-pound M-69.

Further details of two new Japanese air defense weapons have been reported. The "balls of fire," used extensively during the May 24th and 26th attacks on Tokyo, described as about the size of a basketball, are in some instances stationary and have been seen swinging from parachutes. They were observed to burn from white to dark red. Before falling to the ground some of them broke into three balls and brightened considerably. Both flares and rocket projectiles are believed to be included in the description "balls of fire." During the Osaka strike, enemy planes dropped a device consisting of two bucket-size cylinders, presumably explosive, connected by eight or nine feet of chain. No losses have been caused by these weapons although the Baka explosive midget planes have accounted for at least one B-29 loss.

*Attacks on Shipping in Empire Waters.*—The aerial blockade of enemy sea lanes, both in Japanese waters and between Japan and continental ports, continued to produce results. Patrol bombers of Fleet Air Wing One ranged from Shanghai to Fusan in daily sweeps. On the night of the 29/30th two small cargo ships were damaged in Korean waters and on the following day a small cargo ship was destroyed. Also on the 30th off the mouth of the Yangtze River, two large transports, a light ship, a small oiler and three picket boats were damaged. On the following day a lugger was sunk, a tug was damaged and left sinking, a second lugger was damaged in the East China Sea and an enemy fighter was shot down by a Privateer south of Korea. On the 1st a lugger was sunk and a second damaged. A

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small cargo ship was sunk in the East China Sea on the 2d. Two float planes were destroyed south of Korea on the 3d. On the following day a large fleet oiler was exploded, three small cargo ships were sunk and a small freighter was damaged in waters around Korea, bringing the cumulative totals for Fleet Air Wing One activity in this area to 94,405 tons sunk and 91,205 tons damaged.

Search planes of Fleet Air Wing Eighteen ranged the south coast of Japan from the Tokyo area to Bungo Strait. On the 30th a twin-engined transport plane was destroyed. On the following day the planes sank one seatruck, damaged three others, shot down two enemy planes and hit a radio station on O Shima. On the 1st a small freighter was sunk. Two fishing craft were destroyed on the 2d. Three small cargo ships were sunk and a picket boat, a patrol craft and a lugger were damaged on the 3d in attacks by Liberators and Privateers. On the following day six small cargo ships were damaged and an enemy fighter was shot down. On the 5th three small cargo ships were sunk and three more damaged. One enemy fighter was shot down and two others damaged.

Night-flying Mitchells of the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing found targets on three occasions during the week. A small cargo ship was damaged south of Tokyo Bay early on the morning of the 31st. On the 2d, a second small ship was damaged. Returning on the 4th, the Mitchells scored rocket hits on a small ship, causing explosions, and damaged a fishing craft.

*Propaganda.*—Numerous home front broadcasts by the Japanese radio this week attempted to fortify the Japanese people against American psychological warfare—and provided incidental proof that the American broadcast and leaflet campaign is having a definite effect on enemy morale. Evidencing the disquiet of the Japanese leaders, a warning was broadcast to the Japanese that President Truman's declaration—"unconditional surrender of Japan does not mean either obliteration or slavery" for the Japanese—only reveals American fear "regarding prolongation of the war." Previously no dissemination of the President's message had been made in domestic broadcasts. Warning the people to ignore the "enemy's paper bombs," the broadcast declared it would be a shameful and disloyal thing to succumb to the "enemy's propaganda plots." The message of one leaflet, that "real patriotism consists in bringing the war to a close and in making efforts for the reconstruction of the nation," was described as "shallow thinking . . . ignorant and arrogant." One speaker indicated the effectiveness of the propaganda line, however, by openly adopting it. He solemnly declared that Japan would soon be in a position to "open the way for unconditional surrender of the United States." He said that when the United States

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"comes to realize fully how much more sacrifices she must make in the future," Japan would be in a position to present her "unconditional surrender" offer. The speaker said that the Americans were "challenging" Japan with a psychological warfare campaign in the Pacific by "mobilizing all available broadcasting power and commencing an anti-Japan thought offensive," but asserted that "every hour of their propaganda is being brought to naught by a minute of their bombs." Broadcasts by Capt. E. N. Zacharias, USN, evoked a particularly bitter reaction. They were described as nothing but "rubber stamp speech that is typical of American military and civilian understanding of anti-Japanese propaganda."

Other broadcasts were intended to reassure the people of the participation in the hardships of the war by Japan's ruling class. The Tokyo radio declared that the Japanese Government will remain in Tokyo "even if the metropolis is reduced to ashes." Local governments were said to be ready to carry on their administrations independently should communication with the central Government be broken. The "richest great families" were reported to have "renewed their resolve" to fight on, because of the destruction of their homes and factories. The Japanese were told that the enemy has started a mass redeployment of forces and only staunch adherence to the spirit of the Special Attack Corps can frustrate the enemy plan to exterminate the Japanese people.

Several broadcasts touched on the growing Japanese dilemma of whether to court national suicide or to face the "disgrace" of surrender in order to preserve something of their country. The Japanese Shanghai radio broadcast a speech to China on the subject, "Japanese Peace Feelers," in which it was said that Japan would gladly end the war if her legitimate demands were not violated. "Japan cannot be asked to accept unreasonable unconditional surrender," it concluded, "but Japan will gladly end the war if her demands for self-protection and self-existence" are not violated. In discussing the surrender of German leaders, radio Tokyo said the "Japanese conception of capitulation" is quite different and "in similar cases we would choose suicide without consideration." The *Nippon Times* said editorially, however, "If the Americans are sincere they can have no real disputes with Japan's just and logical aims. If the Americans are not sincere in their pretensions, no amount of intimidation on their part, no amount of terror bombing or peace propaganda, can have the slightest effect on Japanese determination . . ."

A Tokyo newspaper, quoted in a broadcast, has described the development of the Japanese Baka bomb organization. The weapon was designed before the Leyte invasion, it was said, in order to "smash the enemy at sea before he makes a landing." Japanese

munitions experts decided 'at that time it would be "virtually impossible" to hit a "mere speck in the sea" such as American warcraft, with a pilotless bomb like the Germans' V-1, so they determined that "human faculties must inevitably do the guiding." It was explained that the "human rocket bomb" was built to be carried into the air by a mother plane and released where it could be guided to the enemy target by members of the "Jinrai" special attack unit and then exploded. A lieutenant commander was quoted as saying that although "sure-hit, sure death" attacks are carried out almost daily nowadays by special attack units, "no such thoughts" were given to a suicide corps at that time. Following the completion of plans and the construction of the first midget plane, an unloaded model was tested in late October of 1944, it was said. It was claimed that the first plane-launched rocket made a successful landing on the ground but that there were "many technical difficulties" in handling the new weapon. It was stated that the effectiveness of the "Jinrai" rocket bomb has now been "proven," and that its explosion is "like 100 thunders roaring at once." Since the end of March, it was said that 352 aces of the corps have been awarded citations for their "outstanding exploits." Tokyo radio has been broadcasting increasingly long lists of such "heroes" who have been decorated posthumously. Another broadcast said the human rocket bomb had been developed as the result of the increased effectiveness of anti-aircraft defenses on American warships. The American "method of defense" had shown "a marked advancement," it was said, making it "extremely difficult" for Japanese airmen to carry out their "mass" attacks. Even at night "the enemy detected us too quickly."

Tokyo radio, in explaining the naval shakeup announced last week, said that it was part of a plan to use all branches of the service, including surface ships, for suicide attacks. On that basis, it was said Admiral Soemu Toyoda, named Chief of the General Staff, will map out over-all strategy on the basis of his experience in battles with the United States Navy, and Vice Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa, holding the combined operating commands, will have tactical charge of suicide attacks on the basis of his past familiarity with them. Vice Admiral Takajiro Onishi, made Vice Chief of the General Staff, was identified as the originator and one of the perfectors of suicide attacks. The Tokyo radio asserted that the entire Japanese Naval Aviation Corps has been turned into a suicide force. Pilots were quoted as saying, "If this tactic is successful, victory is assured for Japan; if otherwise, the navy will have many heroes for our shrines."

*Awa Maru.*—In an exchange of official notes through the Swiss Government, the United States Government has refused to accept responsibility, pending inquiry, for the sinking of the Japanese ship

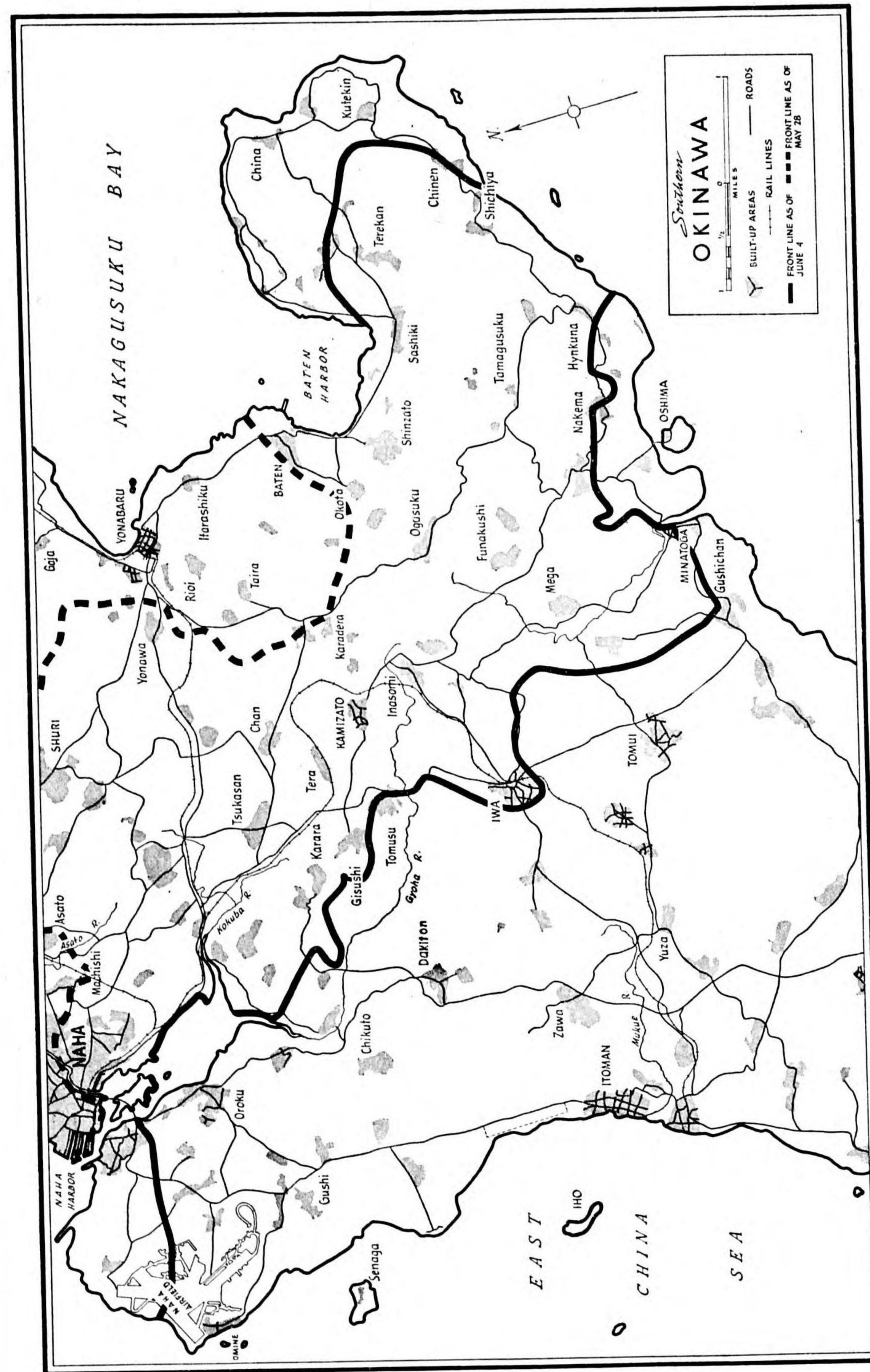


*Awa Maru*, and has warned the Japanese Government against taking retaliatory action against American war prisoners. The Japanese protest had stated that the ship was "deliberately and willfully attacked and sunk by United States submarine" although traveling under an Allied safe conduct. Terming the sinking "the most outrageous act of treachery, unparalleled in the world history of war," the note concluded that "the United States Government are to be deemed to have abandoned their former desire relating to the treatment of war and civilian internees in Japanese hands," and declared that Japan "reserves all rights for taking such measures as may be necessary." The American note stated that the submarine commander had been ordered tried by a general court martial to determine the question of "primary responsibility for the disaster." The propriety of the Japanese use of the ship for "evacuating from zones of danger large numbers of Japanese nationals" was raised, and it was pointed out that the heavy loss of life resulted in part "from the refusal of survivors to accept life lines thrown to them from the submarine." While expressing regret for the incident, the note put the Japanese Government on notice "that any retaliatory acts against Allied nationals in Japanese custody will be a matter of gravest concern to this Government and any person issuing or executing orders in this connection will be severely dealt with at the appropriate time." (When sunk the ship was 40 miles from the estimated position of the *Awa Maru* and carried no lights or illumination.)

**Ryukyu Islands**

*Ground Operations.*—Everywhere along the front on Okinawa troops of the U. S. Tenth Army are advancing, hindered mainly by supply difficulties occasioned by the deep mud resulting from almost continuous rains during the past two weeks. In the ten-day period ending on May 30th, more than thirteen and a half inches of rain fell on Okinawa. Bad weather continued throughout this week, except for a two-day break on May 31st and June 1st, which dried out the ground enough to permit some movement of tanks and vehicles. In spite of these conditions, big gains were recorded in every sector. Shuri, the heavily fortified keystone of the enemy's main defense line, fell to Marines of the First Division and infantrymen of the 77th Division; all of Naha north of the harbor was cleared by Sixth Division Marines, who late in the week crossed the harbor and landed on Oroku Peninsula to seize Naha airfield; but the most spectacular advance of the week was made by the Army 7th Division, on the extreme left flank, which broke the crumbling Japanese defenses below Yonabaru and cleared all of Chinen Peninsula, at the southern end of Nakagusuku Bay, after reaching the south coast of Okinawa at several points.

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The grounds of Shuri Castle were occupied on May 30th by Marines of the First Division and the U. S. flag was raised at 1345 on the highest point of the battered structure. On the day before, after units of the Fifth Regiment had penetrated into the castle courtyard, the Confederate flag, raised by the same company which had hoisted it over Peleliu last fall, flew for a few hours from the citadel's shattered flagpole. It had been anticipated that capture of the ancient castle would be very difficult, but press reports stated that fewer than 50 Japanese opposed the Marines' entry into the former headquarters of the Japanese commander on Okinawa. Maj. Gen. Pedro A. Del Valle, commander of the First Marine Division, is reported to have expressed bewilderment at the lack of opposition. The enemy's cave system was such that he could have brought deadly cross-fire on assault troops and Gen. Del Valle is said to have feared that the capture of Shuri Castle would cost us the greater part of a battalion. The principal obstacle was again the deep mud created by the heavy rains of the past 10 days. So deep was the mire that supplies of every kind had to be carried on foot for more than a mile from the village of Asato. Beyond Asato, trucks, amphibious tractors and "weasels" were unable to make progress, and the men who moved into Shuri had to carry their ammunition and rations on their backs.

The once-beautiful castle, which faces toward China, is completely ruined, according to press reports; even the four main entrances to its intricate network of tunnels and caves have been blown in. The castle had been blasted by artillery fire, bombs and 16-inch naval shells, which beat down the buildings and tore great holes in the 30-foot high, 6-foot thick walls. The Japanese in their retreat from the ruined former headquarters carried off their principal military supplies, including heavy guns, though considerable equipment was taken later in the town of Shuri. Preliminary inspection of the tunnels under the castle disclosed only a few rifles and a small amount of medical supplies.

While units of the Fifth Marines were securing Shuri Castle, other elements of the First Division moved into the town from the west and patrols penetrated some distance to the southeast. The capture of Shuri was completed on June 1st, following a day of scattered fighting all along the northern and eastern approaches to the town. The 77th and 96th Army Divisions made sizable gains against generally decreased resistance, though in some of the hill fortifications, particularly on the 96th Division's front south of Shuri, the enemy continued to fight desperately. By evening of May 31st the 77th Division was standing at the northeastern boundaries of the town and the 96th had emerged from the rugged terrain to the southeast to occupy high ground 600 yards south of Shuri. The advance of the 96th, coupled with the move to the east by Marines from Naha, threatened to pinch

off the enemy's salient at Shuri. According to the press, this was accomplished by a junction of Marine and Army forces 800 yards southwest of Shuri Castle which isolated an enemy force of about 1,000 men just north of Shuri.

With our occupation of Shuri, enemy activity in the center of the line diminished rapidly; there was little opposition except for small suicide groups holding out in caves and tunnels in our rear areas. The First Marine Division on the 1st captured the Shuchina hill masses below Shuri after an advance of more than a mile and took up positions overlooking the Naha-Yonabaru highway against moderate resistance. Other elements of the division continued to mop up inside Shuri. Activity in the 24th Army Corps sector was largely confined to regrouping, though both the 96th and the 7th Divisions reported some progress. The 7th Division encountered the stiffest resistance in the Ozato Mura hills, near Ogusuku, approximately two and a half miles south of Yonabaru.

A general drive southward was begun by the Tenth Army immediately after the fall of Shuri. The central section of the line was straightened and shortened and strong elements on both flanks made new penetrations into enemy-held territory to the south. With the withdrawal of the Japanese from the Shuri area, the major handicap to our progress was the deep mud and intermittent rains, which still hampered the movement of troops and made almost impossible the transportation of supplies in any great quantities to front line units. There were many instances where food, arms and water were dropped by parachute; small boats were used to supply our troops on the two flanks. Armor continued to be immobilized much of the time; tanks were employed, however, by the Sixth Marine Division as its troops moved east out of Naha on the 31st toward the Kokuba River and in the capture of Naha airfield at the end of the week.

On the right flank of the Tenth Army's line excellent progress was made by both divisions of the Third Amphibious Corps. Marines of the Sixth Division, after being held up temporarily by an enemy pocket southeast of Naha on May 30th, drove forward and reached the head of Naha harbor on the north bank of the Kokuba River on the 31st. Stiff resistance and heavy mortar fire were encountered in the vicinity of Kokuba village the following day as the Marines threw patrols across the river and continued to advance to the southeast. Both the Sixth and the First Marine Divisions improved their positions along the Kokuba River and the main cross-island highway. Gains were made south of the river and on the 2d, First Marine units crossed the highway north of Tsukusan. Hills near Karara and Tomigusuku were taken the following day and patrols moved beyond the latter



town. On the 4th high ground southwest of Karara and Gisushu was reached and patrols pushed to the outskirts of Tomusu town, which was by-passed as main elements of the division pushed on to reach Shindawaku, just west of Iwa, then already in the hands of troops of the 96th Division.

Meanwhile, elements of the Sixth Marine Division, after sending reconnaissance patrols across the Kokuba estuary on the 2d, made an amphibious assault in strength on the northern tip of Oroku Peninsula just above Naha airfield. The landings were covered by naval gunfire and a 1,200-yard beachhead was quickly established against little opposition, except for heavy mortar and automatic weapon fire on the left flank. By the end of the day half of the large airfield was in our hands. Other elements of the division, after constructing bridges to replace the wrecked causeways connecting the main part of Naha with the airfield area, crossed to and captured Onoyama Island, in the harbor. By nightfall the island had been developed into a staging point through which reinforcements passed to the south shore of the harbor. Resistance from numerous strong points and fortified caves in the airfield area was eliminated on the 5th; by evening of the next day all of the northwestern part of the peninsula, including the entire airfield, was in our hands. Marines of the division then began moving to the southeast to clear the remainder of the peninsula.

In the 24th Corps sector the 7th Division on the 3d cut off and isolated the Chinen Peninsula, southeast of Yonabaru, when it wheeled its center elements eastward in a rapid maneuver and advanced more than two miles. By the end of the day elements of two regiments had reached the south coast, one in the vicinity of Shichiya and the other just north of Hyakuna. The two forces then turned toward each other to envelop large numbers of enemy troops and civilians caught between them. Other elements of the 7th Division captured Sashiki, at the head of Baten harbor, and moved rapidly up the peninsula. Heavy rains on the 4th hampered the advances of our troops on Chinen Peninsula but sizable gains were made and the coast was reached at several other points. By evening of the 5th the 7th Division had completed capture of the peninsula. On the division's right flank, Mega was cleared of Japanese and our troops pushed on to reach Gushichan by nightfall. Elements of one regiment reached Minatoga, then pushed east along the coastal corridor as far as Nakema. Aragusuku, a short distance southwest of Mega, was captured on the 5th; in this area the enemy's defenses appeared to be strong, and stiffening resistance was being met. Earlier in the week troops of the 7th Division, against considerable resistance, had driven the Japanese from the Yonawa area, northwest of Yonabaru, and had seized high ground overlooking Chan and Kamizato. Stiff resistance

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was met as the division drove to the southeast; both Ogusuku and Shinzato were captured on the 2d and the way was prepared for the breakthrough to the south coast on the following day.

The 77th Division spent several days mopping up rear areas near Shuri, but on the 4th sent elements into the line to cover the 24th Corps' right flank and took hill positions near Chan, which had been cleared of the enemy on the 2d by troops of the 96th Division. The 96th, which had taken over part of the line west of Yonabaru originally held by the 7th Division, captured the road center of Kamizato on the 3d and advanced a half mile to a mile along the whole front. Gains of almost equal extent were registered the next day; Iwa, the most important highway center in southern Okinawa, was captured and troops of the division neared Mega, already cleared of the enemy by the 7th Division. Hill positions overlooking Tomui and Yunagusuku, south of Iwa, were seized the next day in a push that brought elements of the 96th to the northern approaches to the Yaeju-dake escarpment. It is in this rugged territory, sections of which rise to 500 feet above the surrounding lowlands, that the Japanese are expected to make their last stand. Some heavy guns may be emplaced in the escarpment, which runs in a curving line across the southern tip of Okinawa, but it is believed the enemy will have to depend largely on mortars and heavy machine guns. The Japanese were unable to move much of their heavy artillery into the southern part of the island; according to press reports, we captured 9 coastal guns in and around Naha, and a large number of big field guns in our drive southward. As the week ended three U. S. divisions—the First Marine and the 96th and 7th Army—stood at the approaches to the enemy's last defense line.

It was thought by observers at the front that the Japanese might attempt last-ditch stands in the three peninsulas forming the points of the triangle which comprises southern Okinawa. The terrain south of the Naha-Shuri-Yonabaru line, now completely smashed, is such that several potential defensive positions were indicated. The first of these, an intermediate line to be held while defenses were strengthened in other more defensible areas, ran in an arc extending 10,000–14,000 yards along the southern shore of Naha harbor through Inasomi to Baten harbor, east of Shinzato. This line, if it ever existed as a line of defense, was shattered by the swift advances of the 7th Division across the base of Chinen Peninsula to the south coast below Yonabaru. Apparently few enemy troops escaped into the peninsula, one of the three potential suicide stand areas, for elements of the 7th Division have met little opposition as they swept eastward deep into the low hills of the narrow neck of land.

A second possible defense area was the Oroku Peninsula, site of the highly important Naha airfield, reported to be the best in the

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Ryukyus. The terrain in this region offered few natural strong points, as demonstrated by the fact Marines of the Sixth Division encountered relatively little opposition in their amphibious landing on the northern tip of the peninsula and subsequent speedy capture of the airfield, just across the harbor from the main part of Naha city.

The extreme southern tip of Okinawa is in every way the best suited for the enemy's last desperate stand on the island. The terrain is very rugged, in many ways similar to that which delayed our advance for so long at Shuri, though it is doubtful if it has been highly developed. On a front extending possibly 9,000 yards from Itoman through Yuza to Minatoga, with one flank anchored on the East China Sea and the other on the Pacific Ocean, it is thought that the enemy's dwindling forces—now estimated to number fewer than 25,000—could delay final conquest of Okinawa for some time. The swift thrusts of the 7th Division, units of which have already advanced beyond Minatoga, may turn the enemy's right flank, though it is believed that the enemy's main defenses in the caves and ravines of the peninsula have not yet been penetrated.

Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the 24th Army Corps, is reported to have said in an interview with the press on the 1st that organized resistance on Okinawa is on the verge of collapse. Gen. Hodge indicated that he did not think the Japanese would be able to establish another defense line of any importance in the shrinking portion of southern Okinawa they now hold. The general pointed out that artillery and naval gunfire had so depleted the enemy's supply of heavy weapons that he lacked the firepower to support any defense line across the island.

The estimated number of enemy dead on Okinawa as of midnight on the 4th totaled 65,062; our troops had captured 1,222 prisoners of war, according to reports on the same date. (The total number of prisoners taken on Okinawa as reported in the ONI WEEKLY of May 30, 1945, p. 1,742, was apparently erroneous.)

*Naval and Air Operations.*—Support of our ground forces on Okinawa was again limited by the prevailing bad weather. Only on May 31st and June 1st were conditions favorable for full supporting operations; on those two days our fleet units and aircraft from carriers and shore bases destroyed enemy strong points, command posts and buildings.

Escort carrier planes continued their daily neutralization raids on enemy airfields, boat bases and coastal shipping in the Sakishima group. A number of small boats were destroyed and airfield and storage installations received further damage. On the 2d an airborne enemy fighter was shot down over Miyako and a bomber was destroyed after a 50-mile chase. It has been reported that the Japanese are repairing runways at Miyako and Ishigaki after each Allied air raid.

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Aircraft from one of our fast carrier task forces bombed airfields and other installations at Minami Daito, after they had been diverted from Okinawa support missions by bad weather.

Our surface vessels this week sank several small enemy craft in Nakagusuku Bay. Some of them are thought to have been employed in bringing supplies to the beleaguered garrison of Okinawa, possibly traveling by night and finding cover along the shoreline during the day. A number of prisoners were taken from the water, including a Japanese sergeant, who stated he was trying to escape from southern Okinawa.

The scope of Japanese aerial activity this week was the smallest since the very early days of the Okinawa campaign. On May 30th and June 2d and 4th there were no enemy aid raids in the area; there was one small, unsuccessful raid on May 31st, in which the enemy lost 3 planes; and on June 1st a Japanese plane reached the Kerama area, only to be shot down by A. A. fire from one of our destroyer escorts. The only sizable raid of the week was on the 3d, when one of our light Fleet units was damaged. Approximately 75 Japanese planes participated in the attack, which consisted of 18 separate raids directed mainly at our shipping and the airfield on Ie Island. A total of 45 enemy planes was destroyed during the raid, including 35 shot down by the Tactical Air Force. A few enemy planes were over the area on the evening of the 5th and damaged two of our surface units. Five of the raiding planes were shot down.

The Navy Department on the 4th revealed that the U. S. destroyers *Morrison* and *Luce* had been lost to enemy action in the Okinawa area. Both ships were of 2,500 tons; both were launched early in 1943; and both were sunk off Okinawa on May 4th by Japanese aircraft. Casualties were reported to have been very heavy. The *Morrison* had taken part in the Okinawa operations from the beginning; last October she helped rescue many survivors of the aircraft carrier *Princeton*, sunk off the Philippines. On the 1st it was announced that the LSM(R) 194 and the LCS(L)(3) 15 had been lost in the Okinawa area as the result of enemy action. Casualties were described as "fairly heavy" on both vessels. The LSM(R) 194 was sunk on May 4th by Japanese aircraft; the LCS(L)(3) 15 was hit in an enemy air attack late in April and sank in about 3 minutes.

From the beginning of the Okinawa operations last March to midnight of the 2d, 1,442 Japanese planes, including suiciders, have been destroyed by our planes and A. A. batteries, both afloat and ashore. Of these, 435 have been destroyed in the last three weeks—since May 11th. The Tactical Air Force this week reported that its aircraft

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Ryukyus. The terrain in this region offered few natural strong points, as demonstrated by the fact Marines of the Sixth Division encountered relatively little opposition in their amphibious landing on the northern tip of the peninsula and subsequent speedy capture of the airfield, just across the harbor from the main part of Naha city.

The extreme southern tip of Okinawa is in every way the best suited for the enemy's last desperate stand on the island. The terrain is very rugged, in many ways similar to that which delayed our advance for so long at Shuri, though it is doubtful if it has been highly developed. On a front extending possibly 9,000 yards from Itoman through Yuza to Minatoga, with one flank anchored on the East China Sea and the other on the Pacific Ocean, it is thought that the enemy's dwindling forces—now estimated to number fewer than 25,000—could delay final conquest of Okinawa for some time. The swift thrusts of the 7th Division, units of which have already advanced beyond Minatoga, may turn the enemy's right flank, though it is believed that the enemy's main defenses in the caves and ravines of the peninsula have not yet been penetrated.

Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge, commander of the 24th Army Corps, is reported to have said in an interview with the press on the 1st that organized resistance on Okinawa is on the verge of collapse. Gen. Hodge indicated that he did not think the Japanese would be able to establish another defense line of any importance in the shrinking portion of southern Okinawa they now hold. The general pointed out that artillery and naval gunfire had so depleted the enemy's supply of heavy weapons that he lacked the firepower to support any defense line across the island.

The estimated number of enemy dead on Okinawa as of midnight on the 4th totaled 65,062; our troops had captured 1,222 prisoners of war, according to reports on the same date. (The total number of prisoners taken on Okinawa as reported in the ONI WEEKLY of May 30, 1945, p. 1,742, was apparently erroneous.)

*Naval and Air Operations.*—Support of our ground forces on Okinawa was again limited by the prevailing bad weather. Only on May 31st and June 1st were conditions favorable for full supporting operations; on those two days our fleet units and aircraft from carriers and shore bases destroyed enemy strong points, command posts and buildings.

Escort carrier planes continued their daily neutralization raids on enemy airfields, boat bases and coastal shipping in the Sakishima group. A number of small boats were destroyed and airfield and storage installations received further damage. On the 2d an airborne enemy fighter was shot down over Miyako and a bomber was destroyed after a 50-mile chase. It has been reported that the Japanese are repairing runways at Miyako and Ishigaki after each Allied air raid.

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have destroyed 495 Japanese planes since the force began operations from Okinawa in mid-April.

*General.*—A series of changes in command affecting both shore and Fleet operations was announced on the 2d by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Among other changes, Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner's Tenth Army, on Okinawa, was placed under direct control of Admiral Nimitz, and Vice Admiral Richmond K. Turner relinquished command of the Fleet Amphibious Force in the Ryukyus to Vice Admiral Harry W. Hill.

### Formosa

Generally clearing weather at the beginning of the week brought a renewal of the heavy air attacks on major enemy military installations and industrial establishments on Formosa by aircraft of the U. S. Far Eastern Air force from bases in the Philippines. Liberators concentrated mainly on the port of Takao, in the southwestern part of the island, while our medium bombers and fighter-bombers struck at rolling stock, factories, refineries and storage facilities in sweeps over the west coast area.

Every day this week Fifth Air Force Liberators of the FEAF hit warehouses, fuel supply dumps and other military installations in considerable force. Takao, the target for five of the raids, was hit on May 30th by more than 115 of the heavy bombers. About 360 tons of bombs caused fires and explosions in warehouses, barracks and fuel stores. On the next day approximately the same number of Liberators attacked Taihoku, near the northern tip of the island, through intense and rather accurate A. A. fire. Returning pilots reported the destruction of more than half of the Japanese headquarters buildings. Buildings, gun emplacements and other installations at Takao were again the major target for our Liberators on June 1st, when nearly 90 aircraft dropped more than 275 tons of bombs. Takao was hit again on the 2d; more than 120 tons of bombs, dropped by 45 Liberators, touched off large fires and explosions among chemical plants and gas storage areas in the port. Nearly 40 other Liberators bombed the harbor facilities at Keelung with 145 tons of high explosives. Takao was bombed for the fourth time this week on the 3d, when 45-50 Liberators destroyed warehouses and other buildings along the waterfront. Hosan, on the east coast, and Shoko were targets for 35 more Liberators. More than 250 tons were dropped on the three targets. Railroad facilities and warehouses at Takao were attacked with more than 135 tons of bombs on the 4th by nearly 40 Liberators. The following day about 40 Liberators were dispatched to attack Taito. About 55 tons were dropped on the primary target through very bad weather, which turned back many of the bombers and caused

them to attack targets of opportunity instead of Taito. Three enemy aircraft unsuccessfully intercepted our planes.

Other Liberators on search and harassing missions bombed Koshun and nearby Sharyo, a village near Kato, and on the 1st and 3d hit the Mako area, in the Pescadores group, west of Formosa.

On the last two days in May, Mitchell bombers carried out missions against railroad facilities, barracks, warehouses and other storage centers, and industrial targets. The attacks on each day were carried out by approximately 25 Mitchells; on the 30th they hit Shinei, in western Formosa, and on the next day attacked Giran, near the northeast tip of the island. Other Mitchells, on small harassing raids, destroyed rolling stock at Keito and damaged alcohol plants and oil refineries in various sections of Formosa's west coast.

Lightnings and Mustangs in large numbers made daily sweeps over Formosa's coastal areas, bombing and strafing locomotives, freight cars, motor vehicles and small craft, as well as factories and storage facilities. Approximately 330 sorties were flown in these missions, during which about 45 locomotives, at least 200 freight cars, about 25 small craft and many motor vehicles were claimed destroyed or damaged. Numerous enemy troops and service personnel were killed in strafing attacks.

Eighty per cent of the industrial capacity of Formosa has been put out of action by four months of strategic bombing, according to reports compiled by Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney's Far Eastern Air Force and released through the press. More than 10,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Formosa since the neutralization attacks began with full force in February following the development of air bases in Luzon. According to the report, aerial photographs now show large sections of the island a shambles of wrecked factories and power plants, a rail transport system largely stripped and harbors choked with sunken shipping.

Before the war Formosa produced as much as 300,000,000 yen worth of manufactured goods, and up to last year poured many thousands of tons of copper, aluminum, magnesium, aircraft parts and other vital materials into Japan's war machine. At present it is believed that the entire Takao factory district is almost wholly unproductive. It is estimated that the damage done to Takao's principal aluminum plant alone would require two months to repair. Possibly as much as 80 per cent of the power that ran the island's industries has been unavailable since March 23d when a large force of our heavy bombers wrecked the Jitsugetsu Lake hydroelectric plant with 145 tons of 2,000-pound bombs. Also thought to be out of action are the Kinaseki copper mills, near Keelung, in the northern part of the island, which until last year, according to Gen. Kenney's report, produced about



10,000 tons of copper annually, or approximately 9 per cent of the enemy's total supply.

### Philippine Islands

*Ground Operations.*—There have been no developments of significance on Luzon Island this week, but mopping-up operations and widespread patrolling were carried out on all fronts. There was considerable redeployment of units, following the capture of Santa Fe and Imugan, at Balete Pass, and the reduction of the enemy's positions in the Ipo and Wawa sectors. Our patrols moved more than 7 miles beyond Baguio along the highway and reported evidence that the Japanese are withdrawing toward Bontoc under cover of delaying actions from newly constructed fortifications. Delaying actions may also be met in the easily defensible terrain along Highway 5 through Balete Pass to Cagayan Valley. An advance of approximately 6 miles was made northward along Highway 5 on the 4th, however, by units of the 37th Division, which has replaced the 32d Division in the Balete Pass area. The Japanese undoubtedly intend to defend this valley to the last, but their position is already becoming serious because of heavy losses in personnel and equipment. According to press reports, Filipino guerrillas in northeastern Luzon recently repulsed with severe losses to the enemy an attempt by several hundred Japanese soldiers to cross to the west bank of the Cagayan River between Aparri and Tuguegarao. The press report stated that the native troops had already pushed the Japanese out of the rugged mountain country west of the river, leaving in enemy hands only the narrow strip formed by the plains bordering the Cagayan River and its principal tributaries.

Opposition on Mindanao continued to be strong in the area west of Davao and along the east banks of the Pulangi River, east of the Sayre Highway. Units of the U. S. 31st Division made satisfactory progress in the latter region in drives from Valencia and Malaybalay. By the end of the week organized resistance along the Kibawe Trail was reported broken. A series of small-scale amphibious landings were made along the shores of Davao Gulf in an effort to destroy Japanese communication centers and stores of supplies. On the morning of June 1st elements of the 24th Division, under cover of fire from destroyers and destroyer escorts, landed at Luayon, on the west shores of Davao Gulf, about 72 miles southeast of Davao City. Destruction of a radio station was the primary objective of the landing; this was accomplished without loss to our forces. Other landings, also supported by naval gunfire, were made later in the week at Cape San Agustin and Balut Island, which guard the eastern and western approaches to Davao Gulf.

*Air Operations.*—Fuel and supply dumps, bridges, camps and build-

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ings in Cagayan Valley, in northern Luzon, were again daily targets for bombers and fighters of the Far Eastern Air Force. These planes also supported our ground forces in the area around Baguio and Balete, on the approaches to Cagayan Valley, and in the Ipo and Infanta areas, northeast of Manila. More than 2,500 sorties were flown in these operations, during which about 1,400 tons of high explosives and many fire bombs were dropped.

Enemy troop concentrations and supply dumps in central Mindanao and the Davao area were dive-bombed daily by 50-75 SBD's, while smaller forces of F4U's bombed and strafed enemy positions on all fronts on Mindanao. Nearly 600 sorties were flown in these missions; approximately 275 tons of bombs were dropped. On several occasions gun positions and other installations were hit with rocket projectiles.

Ground forces on Negros Island received air support from approximately 15 Lightnings daily; on the 3d, 12 Liberators bombed enemy positions on the island. Enemy positions were hit with a total of more than 100 tons of bombs. On the 2d our troops on Cebu Island were supported by 8 Lightnings.

*Naval Operations.*—PT's on two days shelled enemy positions along the shores of Davao Gulf. On the 2d they operated in conjunction with two Mitchell bombers to destroy fuel dumps and pill boxes along Sarangani Bay, west of the entrance to Davao Gulf. Coastal targets at Bangui, Buguey, and Batulinao Point, in northern Luzon, were shelled by PT's on the 3d.

### Netherlands East Indies

Closely supported by light naval units and Allied aircraft, Australian troops on Tarakan this week further constricted the area held by the enemy on the island, capturing several strong points in the hills north of Tarakan town and sending largely unopposed patrols northward along the eastern coast to the vicinity of the Binalatoeng River. Japanese aircraft again raided the island ineffectively, using only one or two planes at a time.

Air activity over the Indies continued at the pace set in recent weeks, as 1,180 tons of bombs were dropped during 910 sorties. Borneo, as usual, received most of the attention of our airmen, 820 sorties being made over the island and nearby targets; 1,070 tons hit these objectives. Airstrips and installations at sixteen different locations on Borneo were struck repeatedly by groups of planes ranging in strength from one to 35 B-24's or four to 30 P-38's. In addition to these attacks and the many support missions flown over Tarakan, villages, shipyards, sawmills, truck parks, gun emplacements, supply dumps, camps and warehouses and other buildings at about twenty-five

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points on the island were hit daily by flights of B-24's, B-25's, PV's, P-38's, P-40's, Beaufighters and search planes. Strafing and bombing raids on small shipping in the vicinity of Borneo netted one lugger, three small AK's, one barge, one river steamer and three coastal vessels sunk, and resulted in damage to six luggers, one schooner, one launch, one river boat, two coastal vessels and one subchaser.

Shipping, town sites, airfields and installations at Gorontalo, Paloe, Donggala, Tanamon, Langoan, Mapanget on Celebes and the Tijger Islands to the south were attacked by small flights of Liberators, which covered the area daily. During the attrition raids on shipping, one AK, two coastal vessels and one small craft were sunk, and one AK, 16 schooners, two coastal vessels and a gunboat were damaged. Fighters and heavy bombers, in small numbers, struck at villages and airfields on the islands of Alor, Konga, Java, Timor, Kangean, Roma and Kisar in the Lesser Sundas every day. A flight of seven B-24's carried out the attack on the Batavia area of Java on the 3d. These planes smashed docks and claimed three direct hits on a probable destroyer. The largest of these strikes was made on the 3d by 10 Spitfires which swept an airfield on Timor and destroyed a grounded plane. The customary fighter forays were staged over Halmahera daily, two aircraft participating in each flight.

PT boats again were active in the Indies, nine separate attacks by these craft being reported. Six of the strikes were made on targets on or just off the east Borneo coast from Sandakan in the north to Balikpapan in the south. Two small sloops, one launch and one barge were sunk, and houses, a fuel dump and other coastal targets strafed. Halmahera objectives were hit three times by PT's, on the 30th, 31st and 2d. Shore positions on Halmahera itself, a small boat and a warehouse on Ternate were the principal targets.

#### Southwest Pacific

*New Guinea.*—Australian units operating in the Wewak area this week captured the village of Koigen, about three miles inland from the coast, and commenced probing more deeply southward into the foothills of the Prince Alexander range. Beyond the Torricelli Mountains, west-southwest of Wewak, the force pushing eastward through dense jungles moved four miles to the east of Maprik.

Aerial activity over the island continued at a low level this week as only 155 sorties were made over the Wewak and Maffin Bay areas and the nearby islands of Kairiru and Mushu. About 55 tons of explosives and incendiaries were loosed on huts and camps on the islands, while villages, Japanese troops and defense positions were hit near Wewak. The highest total of ground support missions was flown on the 2d, when 25 Beauforts participated. One flight was made in

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the vicinity of Maffin Bay, 11 Liberators pitting the airstrip at Sawar on the 4th.

*Solomons-Bismarcks Area.*—No significant changes occurred during the week on New Britain or Bougainville, but on the latter island the Australians, advancing eastward along the Buin road, reached the crossroads south of Monoitu after repulsing two enemy counterattacks.

There was a slight reduction in air action over the area this week; 780 sorties were made during which 295 tons of bombs were dropped on targets at Bougainville, New Ireland and New Britain. Support missions over Bougainville continued at a steady pace, average flights of 82 Corsairs striking at camps, supply dumps, bridges, truck parks, anti-aircraft gun emplacements and troop concentrations throughout the island. Other Bougainville objectives were hit intermittently by small groups of Mitchells. Wharves, huts, supplies and buildings at Vunakanau, Tobera, Simpson Harbor and other points in and near Rabaul were struck daily by flights of B-25's, PV's and F4U's. On four occasions more than 20 Mitchells took part in these raids. The usual harassing sweeps were carried out over New Ireland targets by small groups of medium bombers and fighters which struck at roads, bridges, huts, coastal targets and anti-aircraft positions.

#### Carolines

Objectives at Palau, Yap, Truk, Ponape, Sonsorol and Merir were hit this week by fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes, which carried out 135 sorties. Bridges, troop concentrations and small shipping at Palau were struck on five occasions by groups of fighters, TBF's joining in the attack on the 4th. Truk targets were raided twice, 15 Thunderbolts strafing anti-aircraft gun emplacements, buildings and small craft at the atoll on the 30th, while about 10 Liberators dropped 25 tons on the Moen airfield and installations on the 2d. A small group of Corsairs strafed enemy installations at Yap on the 30th, and 10 SB2C's bombed camouflaged buildings on the island the following day. Minor attacks were made on installations at Ponape, Sonsorol and Merir by heavy bombers and fighters.

#### Marshalls

Six SB2C's hit a radio station on Maloelap on the 31st with unreported results, fighters bombed unspecified targets on the 3d, and a mixed force of 15 planes—B-25's, SB2C's and F4U's—struck bivouacs on Mili on the 4th.

#### Wake

Search planes, which flew over the island on the 30th, reported the runways obstructed.

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**Marcus**

Runways and installations on the island were covered by 10 tons dropped by Liberators on the 30th. Meager anti-aircraft fire over the target damaged one of the 10 planes making the raid. Another small force of heavy bombers attacked the airstrips and small boat facilities on the 4th.

According to an unconfirmed enemy broadcast, an American submarine shelled objectives on Marcus the night of the 31st.

**Marianas**

Various targets on Rota Island were attacked by a few Hellcats on the 4th.

**Bonin and Volcano Islands**

Flights of about 10 Mustangs struck Chichi five times during the week, dive bombing and strafing Susaki airfield, a radio station, anti-aircraft gun positions, small shipping and various installations on the island. Haha Jima targets were also covered during the sweep on the 31st. One P-51 was lost on each of three of these strikes, on the 31st, 2d and 3d.

Three or four unidentified enemy planes made a morning attack on Iwo on the 1st and escaped undamaged. The raiders dropped incendiaries which caused some casualties and minor material damage. None of our aircraft was hit.

**Kuriles**

After bad weather had forced cancellation of earlier flights, small groups of heavy and medium bombers raided the naval base at Kataoka, objectives on the Torishima Islands and a fishery on Paramushiro on the 3d. The results of the attacks on the naval base were unobserved; fires were started at the fishery. On the following day 11 Liberators, using instruments, dropped 20 tons on the Kataoka base, while two Harpoons bombed buildings at Hayake on the east coast of Paramushiro.

**General**

United States submarines operating in Far Eastern waters sank 14 enemy vessels, including five combatant ships, during recent patrols, the Navy Department reported this week. Units sunk were: one destroyer, three small patrol boats, one coastal minelayer, one large tanker, five medium merchant vessels, two medium freighters and one small merchantman.

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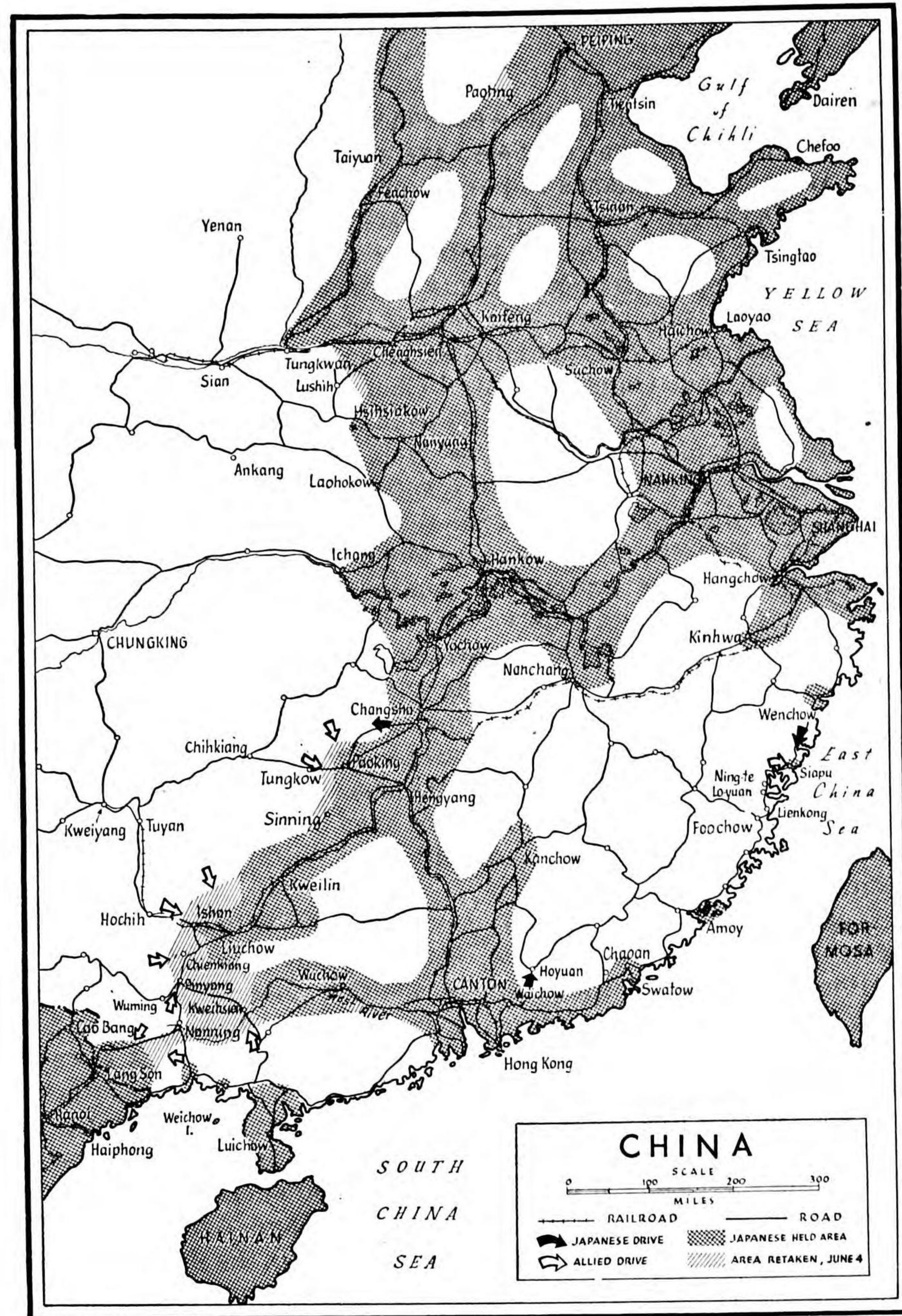
Developments in China this week added further evidence to support the conclusion that the Japanese have written off their entire South-east Asia and Netherlands Indies conquests except for their nuisance value. The enemy's present plan appears to be a withdrawal of what forces he can salvage from the southern regions and the consolidation of remaining garrisons on key points, particularly in the major ports. With Japanese ship movements practically at a standstill along the Asiatic coast, and with the Chinese breaching of the land corridor from French Indo-China to central China, further withdrawals will be possible only through running the gauntlet of Allied sea and Chinese ground blockades of the routes from Indo-China into China. Japanese miscalculation as to the speed and weight of the Allied advance in the Pacific has forced the enemy to abandon plans to withdraw a greater proportion of his forces from the south.

The Japanese are expected to continue to hold all major ports having good communications with interior China, and to leave suicide garrisons at many such points even when communication lines are threatened. It is considered likely that the enemy will eventually give up the corridor connecting the Canton-Hong Kong area with central China, withdrawing to the area north of the Yangtze River in order to mass defensive resources in the area considered most valuable. The major enemy troop concentrations have been in north China and Manchuria, where at least three divisions, withdrawn from south China, have been sent.

During the week the Japanese continued their withdrawal from the Ishan salient, west of Liuchow, and from the French Indo-China corridor southwest of the city. In addition there were indications that the enemy was withdrawing from the West River corridor, leading from Nanning to Canton, used by the Japanese as a water supply route to Nanning. Kweih sien, a river port 85 miles southeast of Liuchow, was reported abandoned by the enemy and occupied by Chinese guerrillas, and much of the north bank of the West River in the area to the northeast was cleared. The Japanese were said to be evacuating the Luichow Peninsula and Hainan and Weichow Islands, as well. On the mainland northwest of Macao the Japanese were reported to have abandoned four cities. Only puppet troops were said to remain on Hong Kong Island.

In southwest China the Chinese offensive developed into a twin drive on Liuchow. The enemy abandoned outlying strong points to





the northwest of the city. Pinyang was taken by the Chinese on the 30th after comparatively heavy fighting, and the Japanese retreated toward Chienkiang. The Chinese pursuers were joined by other forces moving in on the city from the west. On June 3d the Chinese captured Chiengkiang, gaining control of several important highways and reaching a point 53 miles from Liuchow. The advance was then resumed toward Liuchow, and it was reported that the enemy had set fire to the city and was withdrawing to the northeast. Chinese advance units were reported to have reached the area 20 miles southwest of the city. Further advances were reported for the second Chinese force attacking toward Liuchow from the Ishan area. Some elements by-passed strongly defended Ishan and drove to within 12 miles of Liuchow on the northwest.

At the southwestern end of the corridor other Chinese troops continued to move along the main highway toward the French Indo-Chinese border. Local Chinese militia from the area east of the corridor joined the regular army units, completing the severance of the highway corridor. Suilo was captured after a short engagement and fighting was reported in the suburbs of Szelo, 22 miles from the border. By the end of the week the gap in the corridor had been widened to 155 miles.

West of the Changsha-Hengyang corridor the enemy was also retreating—but not of his own volition. Early in the week the Chinese encountered strong resistance in the area west of Paoking and the Japanese were reported reinforcing the area northwest of the city. On the morning of the 31st the Chinese commenced a general offensive along a 40-mile front extending from a village northwest of Paoking to a town on the Paoking-Chikiang highway. Good progress was made along the entire line, and in the northwest the enemy's defense line was quickly broken. Three strong points were taken on the 1st, and by the 2d the Japanese defenses on the highway west of Paoking were overcome. Continuing the advance, the Chinese reached points within 9 miles west and 12 miles northwest of Paoking. Late reports placed them within 5 miles of the city and stated that the enemy was fleeing. It appeared likely, however, that the Japanese would try to make a stand on the line of the Tzu River, just west of the city, in order to protect the vital railroad corridor to the east. The warehouse area in Paoking was heavily attacked from the air in support of the attacking Chinese. In the corridor, puppet troops were reported to have relieved regular army units in the Japanese garrison at Changsha. Northeast of Paoking the Japanese started a diversionary drive from Siangsiang.

On China's east coast the enemy units retreating north from Foochow reached Siapu early in the week and a Japanese relief column



moving south from Wenchow made steady progress. Following up the retreating Foochow garrison, the Chinese drove north of Ning-te, crossed two rivers in face of some opposition and reached Siapu. The enemy column from Wenchow passed through Juian and reached Futing, after overcoming resistance by local Chinese forces. Junction between the two enemy forces was reported north of Saipu on the 31st. Elsewhere along the coast, puppet troops garrisoning the islands north-east of Foochow are reported to have become pro-Allied in light of recent events, and the Chinese have claimed the capture of Yuhwan Island near Wenchow. Japanese garrisons at Amoy and Quemoy are believed preparing to move to Swatow. East of Canton an enemy force from Waichow occupied Hoyuan in a move to extend the Canton defensive perimeter.

Between the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers the Japanese defense of Hsihsiakow continued strong but Chinese artillery fire was reported falling on the city. The Japanese are not likely to give up any more of the territory west of the Peiping-Hankow railroad than they are compelled to, but since the present line is somewhat insecure, they may have to fall back as far as Loyang and Nanyang. Nightly train movements of troops continue along the railroad, Allied air activity having forced the enemy to give up movements by day. The enemy has been able to carry out repairs to bridges and rail sections with comparative rapidity, and ferries are being used where bridge repairs are impossible.

*Air Operations.*—Fighters of the Fourteenth Air Force bombed and strafed retreating Japanese troops in the Liuchow area in daily missions. Road sweeps were made over the Nanning-Liuchow road, the Ishan-Liuchow road, the Pinyang-Kweih sien road leading to the West River and the Liuchow-Kweilin road. An enemy artillery column was hit northeast of Liuchow and heavy casualties and much damage were inflicted on the force. The Japanese warehouse area at Liuchow was hit by a force of 40 Mitchells, escorted by 25 Mustangs, with excellent results. Other planes supported Chinese ground troops attacking toward Paoking and took a heavy toll of enemy river shipping in the Siang River corridor and the Tungting Lake area. Several river steamers and more than 200 junks, including 19 loaded with oil, were destroyed or damaged, many having been hit in a heavy attack on Yochow. Warehouses at Paoking were set afire. Airfields at Nanking were strafed by Mustangs, and Mitchell medium bombers struck transport targets in Indo-China.

In the Yellow River area, the Sinsiang railroad yards and warehouse area were hit by medium bombers in two missions and the railroad yards at Anyang were also attacked. At Nanyang an ammunition dump was bombed. Railroad installations and bridges were hit at

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many points along the Peiping-Hankow railroad. Mustangs struck deeply into Japanese-occupied northern China on the 2d, destroying two enemy planes and damaging three in north central Shantung Province.

Patrol bombers of the Far Eastern Air Force, operating from Philippine Islands bases, struck repeated blows at enemy coastal shipping in China waters. Several attacks were made on concentrations of small craft engaged in evacuating troops and equipment from Hainan Island and Liuchow Peninsula. On the 30th a schooner was sunk and four others were damaged near Fort Bayard, on the east coast of the peninsula. Many other small craft were attacked and one coastal vessel was destroyed. Motor transport was also hit. A motor launch was sunk near Hong Kong. On the 1st a small patrol craft and a coastal vessel were set afire near Canton, and several junks were sunk or damaged northeast of Hainan. A single plane started fires in a military stores area at Canton in a pre-dawn strike. The Tien Ho airfield at Canton was also hit. On the 4th a lugger was sunk and 35 junks were strafed in the waters northeast of Hainan. On the same day a munitions plant at Canton was bombed by a single plane. A Naval search plane surprised and sank a probable submarine chaser near Macao. Somewhat larger targets were found in the Shanghai area. On the 30th three Liberators sank one 3,000-ton freighter-transport and probably sank another. On the 1st a 3,000-ton freighter-transport and a converted patrol craft were sunk, and a tug and a small cargo ship were damaged. On the 2d another 3,000-ton freighter-transport was attacked and probably sunk. On the same day several junks, luggers and motor boats were attacked and damaged at points along the China coast, and five river boats and four oil-laden landing craft were destroyed. On the 3d a single plane dropped bombs on Shanghai. On the 4th a medium freighter was sunk near Shanghai after attacks by three Liberators, and an airfield was bombed.

*Political.*—Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek resigned as President of China's Executive Yuan (a position similar to that of Prime Minister) on May 30th, and was immediately succeeded by T. V. Soong who has been acting president since December 1944. At the same time the resignation of H. H. Kung as Vice President of the Executive Yuan was accepted and Dr. Wong Wen-hao was named as his successor. Wong has been Economic Minister. Reorganization of the Executive Yuan is believed to presage an improvement in China's domestic administration and in her foreign relations as well. Soong, one of the most popular leaders in China, is known to favor a determined effort to solve the Communist question and has been considered a construc-

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tive force in international relations. He is a brother of Mme. Chiang Kai-shek and was educated at Shanghai, Columbia and Harvard Universities. For many years he was China's Minister of Finance and he presently holds the Foreign Ministry portfolio. Soong has represented China at recent international conferences, and as Premier is expected to represent China at future meetings of the "Big Five." Resignation of the Generalissimo is believed to indicate his desire to devote more attention to the prosecution of the war. Chiang continues to hold the positions of President of China and Generalissimo of her armies, and he is also Supreme Allied Commander in the China Theatre.

This promising political development was accompanied by statements which indicated a general improvement of relations between China and her western Allies. In an interview with foreign correspondents on the 29th, Chiang agreed to a suggestion for substitution of American censorship on military and political news from China in place of Chinese censorship. Chiang also attended a dinner at the residence of General Wedemeyer, the first invitation from a foreigner which he has accepted in many years. Following his appointment, Premier Soong stated that his course of action would be to "work for national unity, national reconstruction, and the strengthening of our ties with other United Nations." A Chinese spokesman said that Soong will visit Marshal Stalin after the close of the San Francisco conference.

Meanwhile the Communist radio at Yen-an continued its attacks on the Kuomintang, China's ruling political party, rejecting the Chungking formula for settlement of differences through negotiation. The recently announced plans for constitutional government were called "obnoxious hypocrisy" and it was alleged that Chungking is "preparing for civil war." The proposed governmental reforms were described as a method of merging the Kuomintang with the Government in order to continue "one party rule" under the guise of democracy. A Russian commentator made similar charges in the Soviet-controlled newspaper, *Izvestia*, in Moscow. Declaring that the only way to achieve national unity was through the creation of a coalition government, the writer proposed two steps to achieve this aim. The first should be the calling of an assembly of all parties, groups and organizations in China, and the second should be the removal of reactionaries who now head the Kuomintang, he said. The writer asserted that some Chinese military leaders were more concerned with "liquidation of the Partisan movement" and the blockading of a "special frontier district" than with combating the Japanese. He also followed the Yen-an line of attack on "one party rule," charging the Kuomintang with packing the national constitutional assembly

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called for November, and attacked the reforms recently decided upon in the Kuomintang Congress.

The Chinese newspaper *Yulinjihpao* has reported the execution of four leaders of Chinese Communist guerrilla forces by Kwangsi authorities on charges of rebellion. Among them was Gen. Chang Yen, leader of the Nineteenth Army in Shanghai during the 1932 "incident." The charges were reportedly based on the discovery of a document outlining plans for enlarging the area of operations of Communist guerrillas and recommended "direction of propaganda against the Kuomintang Government and its leaders, using charges of corruption of officials to shake the confidence of the people in the supreme military administrative leaders of the country."

The Japanese radio has reported the arrival in Yen-an, Chinese Communist Headquarters, of "a party of 20 Soviet technical experts."

#### French Indo-China

In attacks on enemy targets near Vinh on the 31st, a small freighter and six coastal vessels were destroyed and three coastal vessels and a shipyard were set afire. At other points along the coast, another coastal vessel was sunk and rail facilities and rolling stock were damaged. Daily attacks were made on rail targets and military installations along the coast.

#### Malay States

Shipyards at Kuala Trengganu were attacked by Naval search planes on the 31st. Fires were started and shipping was damaged. Off the coast a small freighter-transport and a coastal vessel were sunk and two small freighters were damaged. Two enemy fighters, one a float plane, were shot down. On the 1st two Naval search planes were intercepted by twelve enemy fighters over Singapore. One of the bombers was badly damaged in the opening pass and was eventually lost. The other bomber shot down one Japanese plane, probably destroyed two others and damaged five.

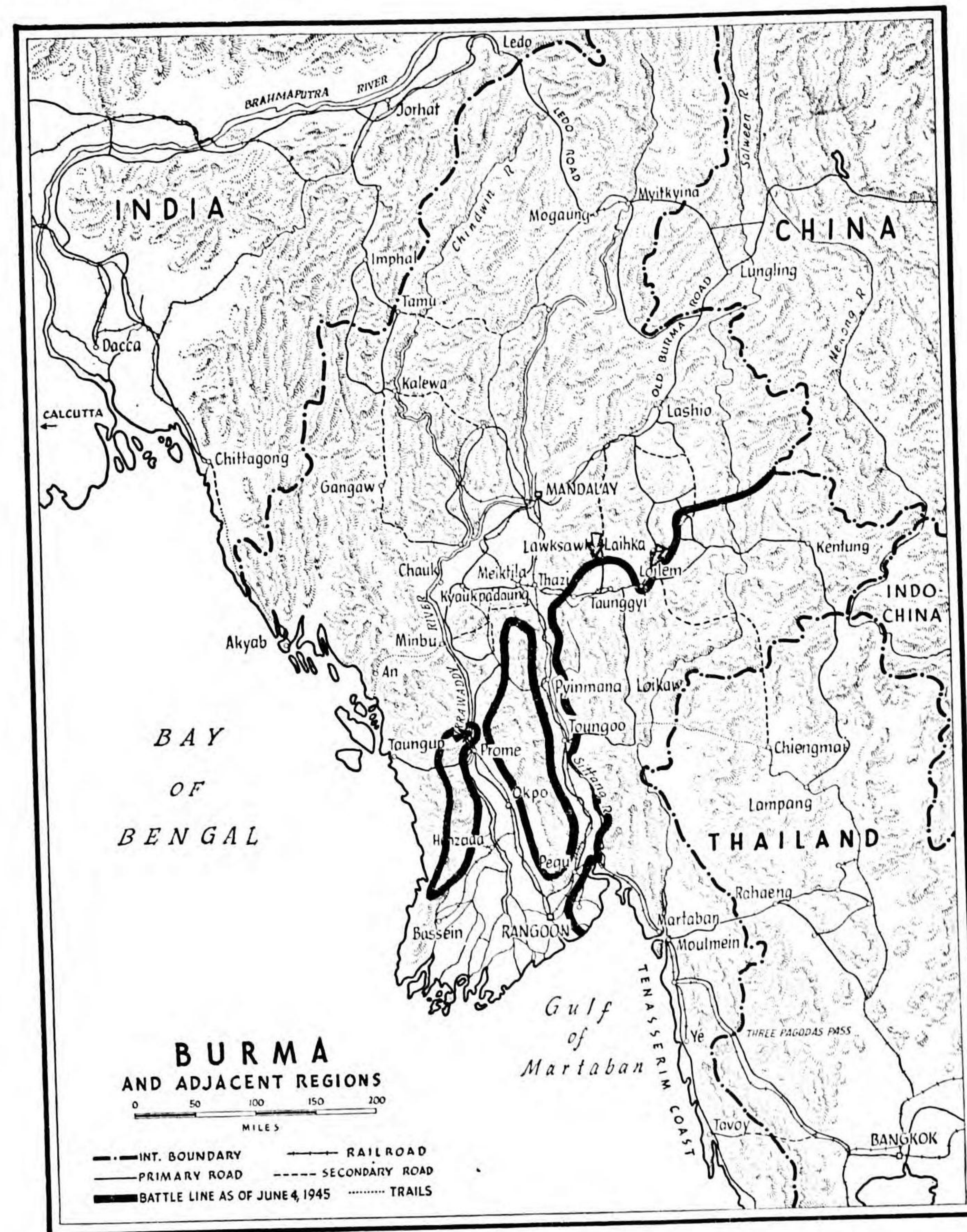
#### Burma

Southeast Asia has become an almost exclusively British theatre of war. It was announced this week that all American combat units have been or are being withdrawn from Burma and that remaining units of the Service of Supply and Air Transport Commands will be mainly concerned with the transportation of supplies to China. Maj. Gen. George E. Stratmeyer, commander of the combined American and British Eastern Air Command, has relinquished his command to Air Marshal W. A. Coryton, second in command since last December. American air units, which have provided approximately half of the strength of the force, are leaving the theatre for

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new assignments. The 475th Infantry Regiment and the 124th Cavalry Regiment, of the U. S. Army, formerly part of the Mars task force in Burma, have been sent to China and incorporated into Maj. Gen. Robert McClure's Chinese Combat Command. The Air Transport Command, however, will continue to operate from India to Burma and China. Headquarters elements of the British Fourteenth Army, have been withdrawn from Burma and all British troops in Burma are now under the operational command of the British Twelfth Army.



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Good progress was made during the week in Burma in mopping up the many small groups of Japanese troops cut off behind the main battle line, and slight advances were made over difficult terrain along two of the three main routes to Thailand. A Japanese attempt to break out of the Kama "escape" bridgehead east of the Irrawaddy, 17 miles above Prome, where most of their troops in this part of the valley had concentrated, resulted in a heavy enemy defeat. The enemy force, in strength of approximately 1,800 and commanded by a major general, initiated a series of attacks early in the week in an effort to break out. On the night of the 27th, seven attacks were launched at one point and five at another. One small group of 300 did succeed crossing the main road and moving toward the Pegu hills. By the 2d, however, it was announced that enemy resistance in the area had been overcome and that the count of enemy dead had reached 1,400. Fifty prisoners were taken. Enemy stragglers who escaped from the pocket were being hunted down and killed.

To the south, enemy troops continued to filter across the Prome-Rangoon road in the Okpo area, moving toward a point east of the town. Numerous clashes were reported in the area. Henzada was reported in the hands of the (now) pro-allied Burma National Army.

In the Shan Hills, the enemy has shown signs of preparing for a long siege, but several important gains were recorded late in the week. Kachin levies, which have been advancing south from Hsipaw and other Burma road points for several weeks, occupied Lawksawk, north of Taunggyi, and Loilem, key road junction town on the road to Thailand. Several hundred of the enemy remained dug in in the area south and southeast of Loilem. Capture of Loilem placed an Allied block on the eastward withdrawal routes for enemy forces still holding the Kalaw-Taunggyi-Lawksawk area. One road leads generally southwest from Loilem to Chiengmai, in Thailand, and the other leads east to Kentung and thence south into Thailand. The Japanese withdrawal will now have to be southward through the Salween River gorge route. An advance was also made in the Kalaw area on the 31st where British troops captured the "Staircase", a portion of the Thazi-Taunggyi road which zigzags up a 3,000-foot mountain northwest of the town and advanced to positions four miles northwest and two miles north of the town. Estimates of enemy troops in this area place approximately 2,000 in the Kalaw sector, opposing the British eastward advance, and 3,600 in the area to the east. Small numbers of the enemy were reported moving west from the Loilem area to Taunggyi. The enemy troops are reported gathering farm implements and rice seed, indicating an intention to hold the area at least through the monsoon.

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Along the road leading eastward from Toungoo destruction by the enemy of a 90-foot bridge at milestone 13.5 halted British armor and forced the withdrawal of patrols which had penetrated some distance beyond. An estimated 5,000 Japanese in this area are believed to have received orders to fight to the last man in order to enable the large formations to the north to withdraw toward Moulmein. Bridging of the gap was undertaken under sporadic enemy artillery and sniper fire, and by the 2d an advance had been made to milestone 15½ where enemy bunker positions were encountered. These were cleared and a further half-mile advance was made through an enemy minefield. Other units occupied a village 18 miles east-northeast of Toungoo.

Along the Sittang estuary no further Allied attempts were made to cross the river as arrival of the monsoon brought flood conditions to much of the surrounding area. Some enemy artillery fire was encountered in the Mokpalin sector. Enemy attempts to force a passage through the railroad corridor in this area in order to reach the Sittang crossings also ended as large sections of the ground became impassable. Enemy groups in the southern Pegu Hills appeared to be moving to northeast to make their crossing attempts farther up the corridor. A sizable enemy force was pocketed northwest of Pegu, and fighting took place along its perimeter. Additional territory was brought under Allied control with the occupation of Paunggyi, 20 miles west of Pegu.

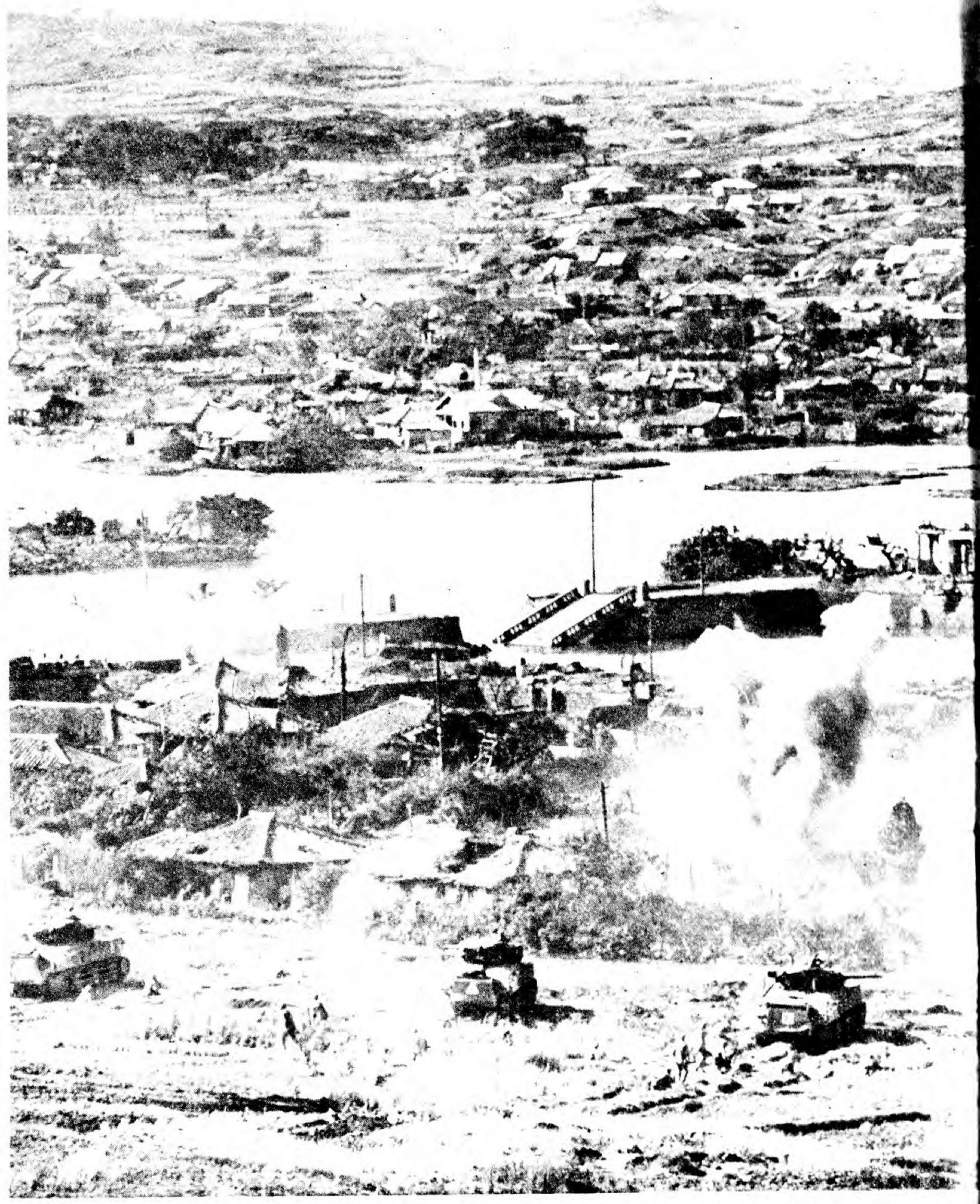
*Air Operations.*—The RAF Eastern Air Command flew several heavy bomber missions to South Burma and Thailand targets through the week. On the 30th the naval anchorage at Sata Hib in the Gulf of Siam was struck by 30 Liberators which dropped 65 tons, damaging a coastal defense vessel and scoring near misses on a submarine depot ship. Bridges and rolling stock on the Bangkok-Singapore railroad were also attacked. On the 1st the Sata Hib anchorage was struck again by 35 Liberators, dropping 70 tons. The submarine depot ship previously damaged was sunk, and a freighter was sunk by a direct hit. A sloop was bombed and a destroyer strafed. Other planes attacked the Rat Buri railway yards on the Bangkok-Singapore line, troop concentrations at Moulmein and the jetty area at Martaban. Surat Thani, 100 miles south of Chumphon on the Bangkok-Singapore railroad, was hit by the heavy bombers on the 5th. Fires and explosions were caused in station buildings and the jetty area. Bad weather limited tactical operations but fighter attacks were made on enemy troops near Kalaw and Taunggyi.

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Marine using a flamethrower to eliminate a Jap sniper hiding in an Okinawa tomb.



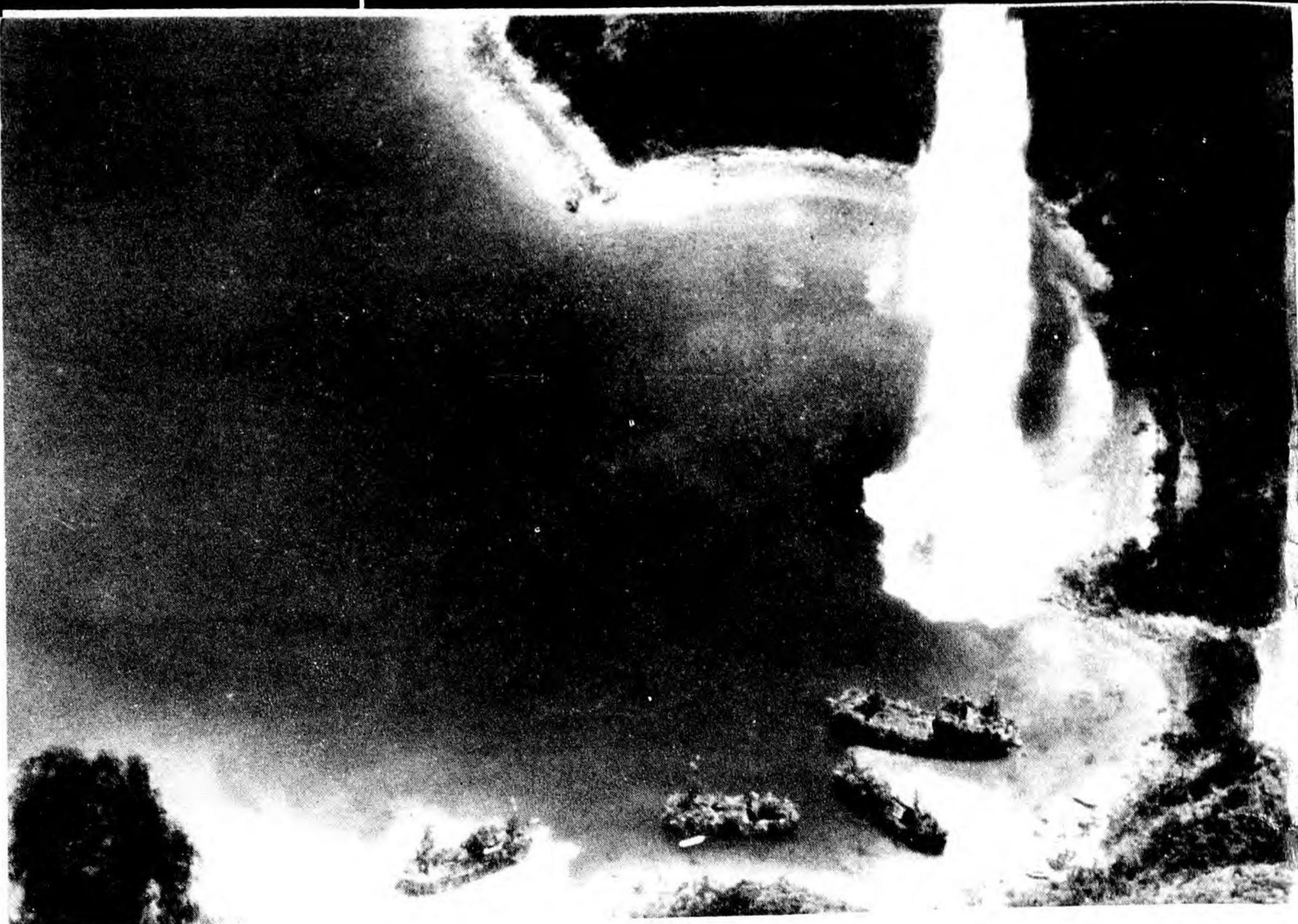


Tanks and infantry of the Sixth Marine Division in action at Naha, capital of Okinawa.

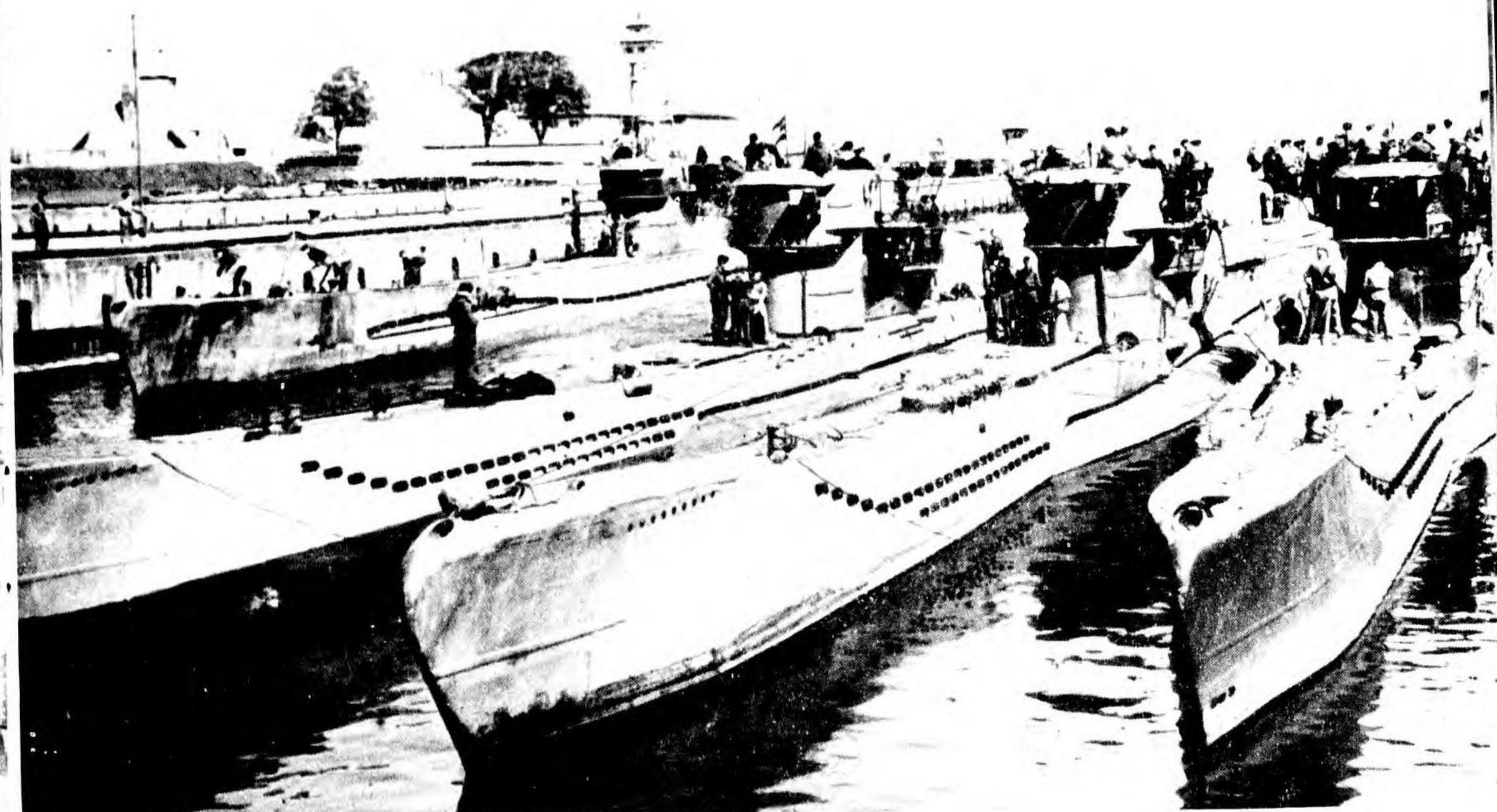


Making a friend in the Military Government Compound at the village of Taira, Okinawa.

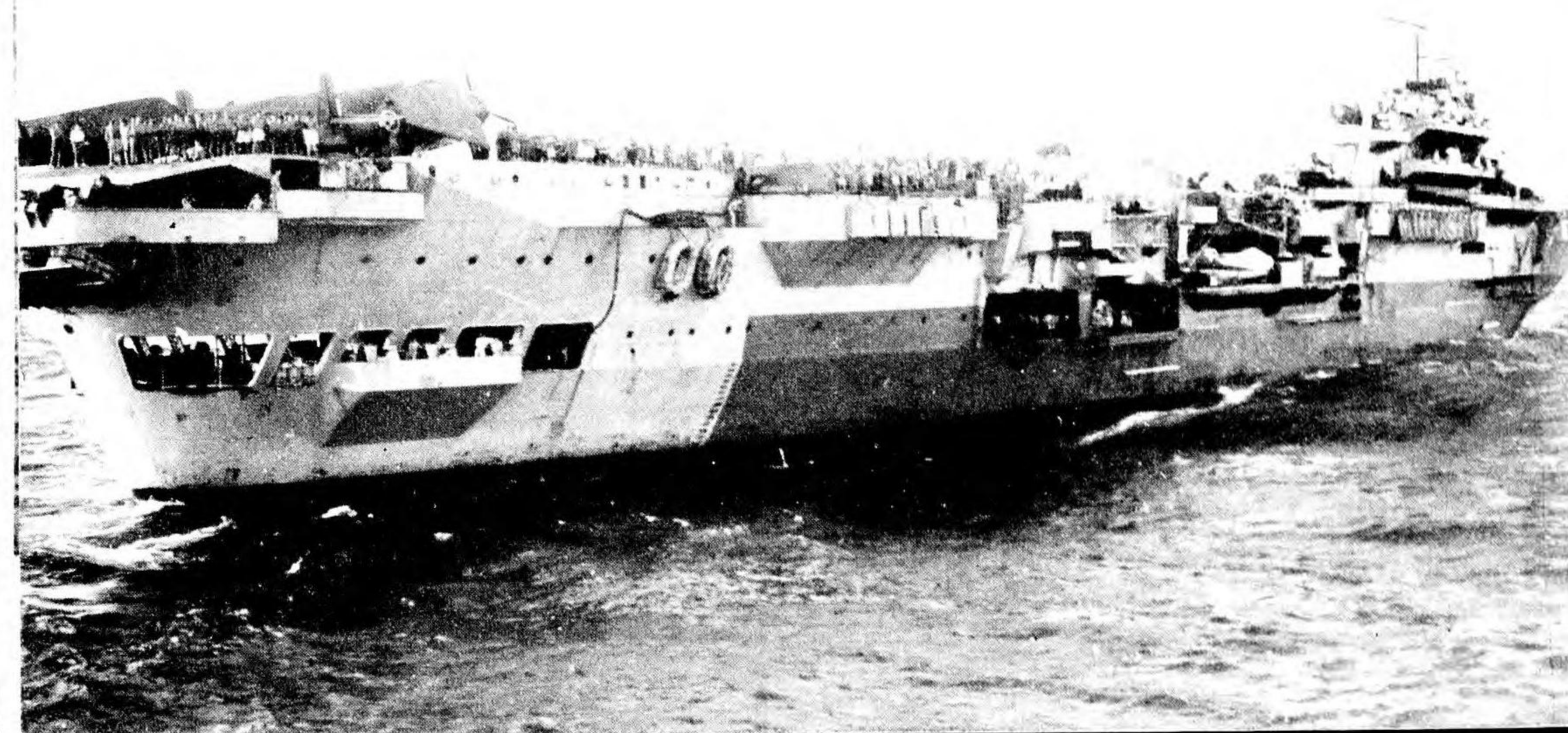




Camouflaged Japanese coastal shipping is bombed by carrier aircraft in the Amami Islands, north of Okinawa. Below, an *Illustrious* class carrier pauses to refuel during British Pacific Fleet operations in support of Okinawa. (Confidential)



German submarines arrive at Wilhelmshaven to surrender to the Allies. The lower photograph shows Nazi survivors of the submarine which sank the destroyer escort *Frederick C. Davis* northwest of the Azores on April 24th, only to meet speedy destruction at the hands of other U. S. ships.



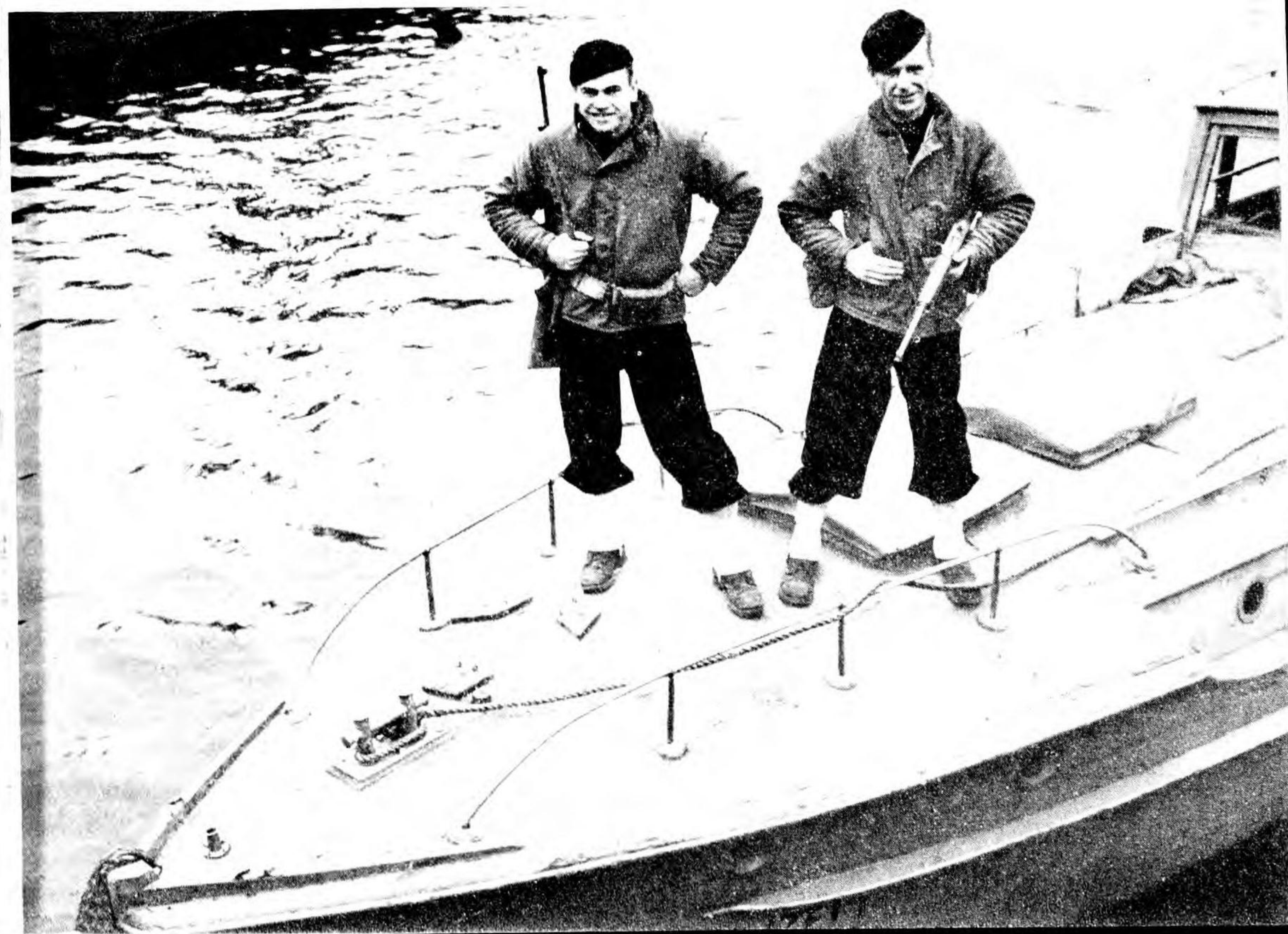




U. S. Navy "task force" charged with the control of the port of Bremen musters for inspection at Verden, 20 miles from its objective. Below, an advance reconnaissance patrol passes through Bremen en route to the docks.



Rear Admiral Arthur G. Robinson, USN, Commander U. S. Ports and Bases in Germany, makes an inspection of Bremen's dock facilities. Below, a U. S. shore patrol guards a former Bremen police boat.





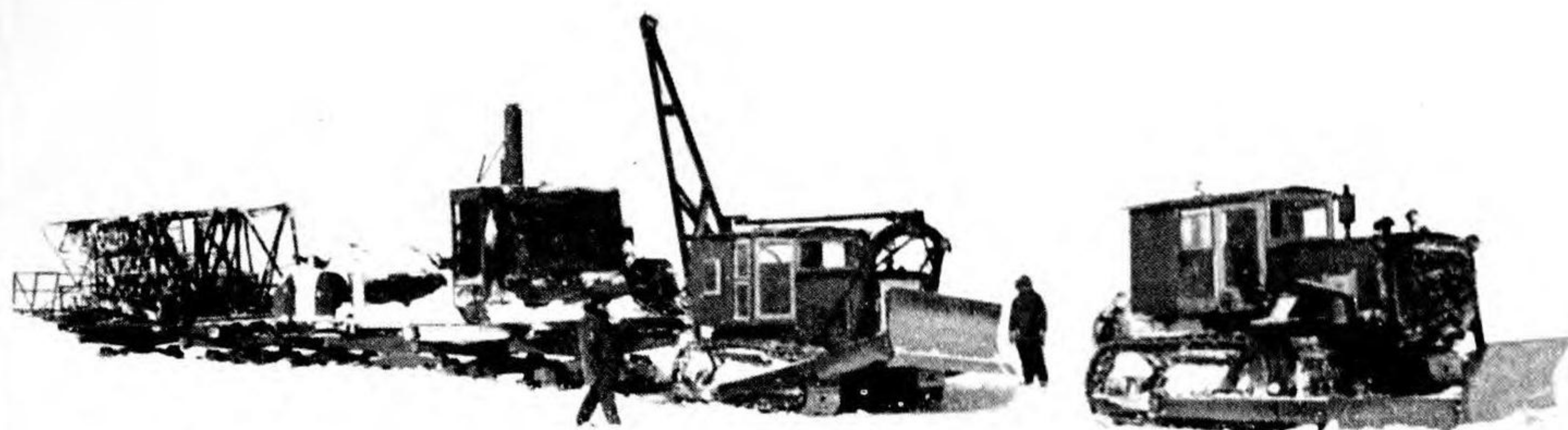
## EUROPE

## Germany

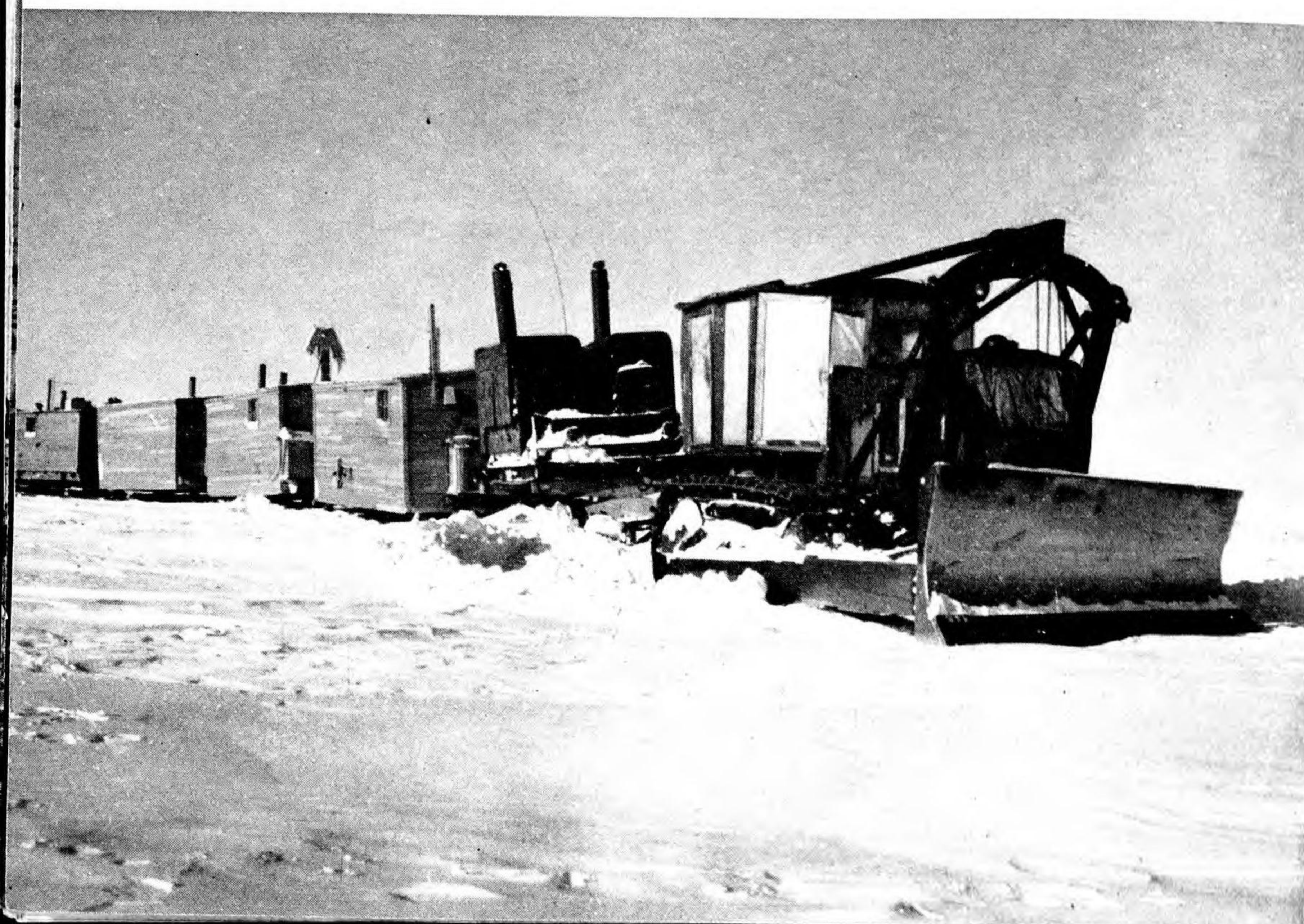
Members of the Allied Control Council, which will direct the immediate future of Germany, assembled in Berlin this week for their first meeting. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, acting in his new capacity as commander of the American forces of occupation, left SHAEF's advance headquarters at Frankfurt on the Main for the German capital on June 5th. He was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, his deputy, Robert D. Murphy, his political adviser, Vice Admiral Robert Ghormley and other officers. The American delegation received a "rousing reception" upon arrival at Templehof airport, with a Russian military band striking up "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery will be the British representative on the Council, and it was announced this week that Marshal Zhukov, now commanding Soviet forces of occupation in Germany, would represent the Soviet Union. Besides commanding the First White Russian Front (roughly equivalent to a U. S. Army Group) during the attack on Berlin, Marshal Zhukov, now 50 years old, was the first Commissar of Defense and formerly was Soviet Chief of Staff. He was in command of Soviet forces when the German Sixth Army was destroyed at Stalingrad. The French representative on the ACC will be Maj. Gen. Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, formerly commander of the First French Army and the French representative at the ratification of the German surrender at Berlin on May 9th.

These representatives signed in Berlin on the 5th, four documents regarding the defeat of Germany and the assumption of supreme authority by the United States, the United Kingdom, the U. S. S. R. and the provisional French Government as the occupying powers. It was disclosed that the Control Council, whose decisions are to be unanimous, is to exercise the supreme authority in matters affecting Germany as a whole, and that the individual commanders-in-chief are to insure "appropriate uniformity of action" in their respective zones of occupation, where each commander will exercise supreme authority. Under the Control Council there will be a permanent coordinating committee, composed of one representative of each of the four commanders-in-chief. In addition there will be a control staff, organized in the following divisions (subject to adjustment in the light of experience): military; naval; air; transport; political; economic; finance; reparation, deliveries and restitution; internal affairs and communications; legal; prisoners of war and displaced persons; manpower. There



A Seabee tractor train hauling oil well equipment across the ice fields of the Navy's Petroleum Reserve No. 4, Alaska, where thorough geologic exploration is now being conducted, as described in a special article in this issue. Below, a tractor train of "Wannigans," living quarters for the Seabees. (Both confidential)





will be four heads of each division, one designated by each power. The functions of the coordinating committee and the control staff will be to advise the Control Council, to carry out the Council's decisions and to transmit them to appropriate German organs, and to supervise and control the day-to-day activities of the latter.

In simultaneous announcements by the American, British, Soviet and French Governments, "supreme authority" in Germany was said to have been assumed jointly by the four powers because there had been no central authority in Germany since the country's unconditional surrender "capable of accepting responsibility for the maintenance of order, the administration of the country and compliance with the requirements of the military powers." The four countries assuming this responsibility intended, it was announced, to consult with the governments of other United Nations regarding the exercise of this authority. It was specified that any United Nations organization which might be permitted to send military missions to the Control Council would be subordinate, and answerable, to the Allied control machinery. No provision was made for the accrediting of representatives from former neutral countries.

The joint announcements revealed also that the German boundaries are to be reconstituted, at least for the time being, as they were on December 31, 1937, before the annexation of Austria and Czechoslovakia. Four zones of occupation were set up, with a zone in southwestern Germany allotted to the United States, a western zone to France, a northwestern zone to the United Kingdom and an eastern zone to the Soviet Union. There was no immediate definition of the limits of these areas of occupation. The responsible power in each zone was authorized to utilize as occupation forces auxiliary contingents from any other Allied power which "actively participated" in military operations against Germany. An inter-Allied governing authority, under the general direction of the Control Council, was set up for a joint administration of a "greater Berlin" area, with representatives of each of the four occupying powers rotating as chief of this authority. There has been no announcement as yet regarding the joint control arrangement for Austria. (An Allied military mission, composed of American, British and French units, entered Vienna on June 3d after a cordial reception by the Russians, but Richard K. Law, British Minister of Education, said on the 6th that "it might be some time" before a Control Commission for Austria is set up.)

After pointing out that Germany bore the responsibility for the war and that she had been defeated completely, the four powers stated that Germany "has become subject to such requirements as may now or hereafter be imposed upon her." Provisions covering the end of

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hostilities were then laid down, "without prejudice to any subsequent decisions which may be taken." The complete disarmament of Germany is to be carried out by the surrender of all armed forces, aircraft, ships, war materials and war factories. German labor in plants, as well as records and other useful information, are to be furnished to the Allies upon demand. All German facilities for the transportation of Allied troops, together with their equipment and supplies, are to be provided. The Germans are to furnish complete and detailed information regarding mines, mine fields and other hazards, and to make available unarmed German military and civilian personnel to render these areas harmless. German radios are to be silent unless directed to continue by Allied representatives. All Allied prisoners of war and nationals are to be released. Principal Nazi leaders and others, including United Nations traitors in Germany, designated by Allied representatives as being suspected of war crimes are to be apprehended and surrendered. German authorities and the people are to comply with any instructions given for the apprehension and surrender of such persons.

Prior to the first meeting of the ACC, Field Marshall Montgomery on May 30th told the Germans in the British zone of occupation that they must work "willingly and efficiently" for "a simple and orderly life for the whole community." To provide food, housing, transportation facilities and to secure freedom from disease would, he said, require "much hard work for everyone." The German armed forces, he continued, would be disarmed and disbanded, and after being sorted out by professions and trades, would be discharged according to the immediate necessity of their work. As the harvest has priority, Marshal Montgomery said that agricultural workers would be discharged first, with others being released as "practically feasible."

The situation in Berlin, after a month of Soviet occupation, apparently remains unsettled, despite Soviet efforts to establish order, clean up the extensive damage to the city, restore essential services and give some measure of self-government to the inhabitants. On June 1st, the Soviet-sponsored German mayor, Arthur Werner, disclosed that 50 former Nazis would be executed henceforth for every incident directed against the Soviet forces of occupation. Those who committed arson out of "political hostility" or who attacked any person invested with official functions would be put to death, Mr. Werner said. Such efforts were described as "senseless and criminal provocation" of occupying forces whose "good understanding and friendly attitude toward the population is a primary and essential prerequisite for the establishment of normal conditions and for general well-being." There had been no previous indication of disorders

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in Berlin, nor of efforts to burn Russian headquarters and other buildings and attack Soviet soldiers.

Earlier broadcasts from Berlin had revealed that a system of municipal and police courts had been authorized by Nikolai Y. Berzarin, Soviet commandant of the city, to serve "the legal needs of the working population." All public prosecutors and judges were described as "German anti-Fascists," and the city population was directed to follow orders of the new officials as representatives of the city's administration.

In Bremen two explosions, possibly caused by delayed-action bombs, wrecked the U. S. Military Government headquarters on June 4th, killing at least 15 Americans and Germans and injuring 80 others, according to press dispatches. The four-story building had formerly been used as a headquarters for Nazi SS detachments.

#### War Criminals

The United Nations War Crimes Commission opened in London on May 31st with a three-day conference to study "methods of detection and the securing of evidence" against those charged as war criminals. Its representatives receive charges of war crimes forwarded by the national governments, and if a prima facie case exists against the accused, his name is added to the list of those to be apprehended by military authorities. The sixteen nations represented on the Commission—the Soviet Union is not as yet participating—were also expected to exchange views on methods of dealing with those accused and to prepare charges against those individuals who have not yet been indicted. The Commission aims also "to accelerate and improve detection of war criminals of both the European and the Japanese wars."

At the opening session Lord Wright, chairman of the Commission, announced that more than 4,000 individuals, including 2,524 Germans and 110 Italians, had already been listed as war criminals, and that the trials would reveal crimes not only on an unprecedented scale but committed "according to plan by elaborate organized agencies and individuals acting under common direction and common concern." The Commission has already recommended, he said, that all members of the Gestapo and certain units of the SS should be taken into custody, whether or not charged with any specific offense.

The United States, it was disclosed at the second day's session, has not yet submitted any list of war criminals to the War Crimes Commission, chiefly because of the difficulty in collecting information from widely scattered former prisoners of war. Brig. Gen. E. C. Betts is the head of the American delegation, and Associate Justice Robert J. Jackson of the Supreme Court is the chief prosecutor for the United States.

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#### France

The prosecution of the war against Japan and the maintenance of an occupation force in Germany will necessitate the continuation of compulsory military service in France, according to André Dietholm, the Minister of War. The duration of such conscription probably will be set at two years. As a preliminary step in the war against Japan, France is organizing an expeditionary force composed of volunteers, M. Dietholm said. France's efforts along this line, he continued, were not only a matter of recovering her possessions in Indo-China but also of "standing shoulder to shoulder with our American Allies."

Before the end of the year—probably in October—the French will go to the polls in a general election to determine the regime under which they desire to be governed, Gen. Charles de Gaulle informed the Cabinet on the 31st. Simultaneously there were three minor changes in the French Cabinet announced—presumably in response to the leftist trend in recent local elections and public criticism of the deGaulle Government for its indecisive stand regarding the food situation and its treatment of collaborationists.

On June 3d the new Minister of Supplies issued an order that no meat, not even horseflesh, will be served in any public eating house in France except at the mid-day meal on Sundays and holidays. This order applies to clubs, as well as hotels, restaurants, cafes and inns. The only exceptions are canteens and cooperative cafeterias in factories.

The French Ministry of the Interior announced on June 4th that Spanish republican refugees in France had been granted the advantages of Nansen international status, according to a broadcast dispatch of the French Press Agency. The Nansen status, derived from regulations laid down by a League of Nations committee headed by the late Norwegian scientist and explorer, Fridtjof Nansen, grants internationally valid passports to persons who have become stateless through political events in their native countries.

*The Levant*—The crisis in the Middle East, originally involving only France and Syria and Lebanon, assumed an international aspect this week. The landing of French troops at Beirut, capital of Lebanon, brought about the breaking off, on May 21st, of negotiations for a treaty between France and the two Levant States, and by last week the situation had become increasingly serious. Heavy fighting took place between Syrians and French garrisons at various cities, particularly in the capital of Damascus. To prevent further bloodshed Prime Minister Churchill on May 31st, in a personal message to Gen. Charles de Gaulle, stated that he had ordered Gen. Sir Bernard

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C. Paget, British Commander in Chief in the Middle East and strategic commander of all Allied forces there, to intervene "in the interest of the security of the whole Middle East, which involves communications for the war against Japan." The French were requested to cease fire and to withdraw to their barracks so as to avoid a collision with British forces. After order had been restored, Mr. Churchill continued, Great Britain would be prepared to participate in tripartite discussions in London with France, the United States, and eventually the Levant States.

The State Department on the 28th expressed its "deep concern" over the situation, and urged a careful review of French policy to make it clear to the world that France intends to treat Syria and Lebanon as "fully sovereign and independent members of the family of nations." The American note pointed out the need of avoiding, at the time when the San Francisco Conference is attempting to organize world security, the suspicion that one member of the future organization may be already resorting to force to settle a dispute with another member. Mr. Grew, Acting Secretary of State, also stated that the United States Government had transferred certain military equipment to the French under lend-lease for use against the Axis, that such equipment was not intended for any other purpose and that no material had been assigned for use in Syria.

The Soviet Government showed its interest in a peaceful settlement of the controversy by informing the United States, Great Britain, France and China that it believed "speedy measures" should be taken to bring military operations to an end. The Russians pointed out that the events in Syria and Lebanon did not correspond to the spirit of the Dumbarton Oaks and the San Francisco Conferences. According to the Moscow radio, the Soviet note was addressed to all four countries because to them "belongs the initiative in the creation of a post-war organization for peace and international security."

On the evening of May 31st, General Humblot, commander of French forces in the Levant, arranged for the issuance of a cease-fire order and the withdrawal of French troops to their barracks, stipulating only that the French would return fire if attacked. In Damascus, where shelling had caused considerable damage, the cease-fire order became effective at nightfall but Senegalese troops looted extensively during the night before being ordered to return to the barracks on the morning of the 1st. According to the press, Gen. Oliva-Roget was responsible for the wanton destruction in Damascus and was dismissed from his command at British request. By the 1st, 60 British tanks and armored cars had taken up positions at key points in Damascus, and Gen. Paget informed Lt. Gen. Paul Etienne Beynet,

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French delegate general and plenipotentiary to the Levant, that to restore order in Syria and the Levant the French must obey his orders without question, that all French troops and *troupes speciales* must be withdrawn to barracks, that naval units must remain in the harbor and that French aircraft must remain grounded. On June 2d, Vice Admiral William G. Tennant, British naval commander in the Middle East, arrived at Beirut aboard a cruiser. Several other British naval units had already arrived and others were expected shortly.

In Paris meanwhile General de Gaulle explained his position in a series of announcements. On the 1st he said that the cease-fire order had been given "in order to ease tension and to give satisfaction to the request of the British Government." This order had been given, he said, to create, "if possible, an atmosphere more favorable for conversations with the American and British Governments and eventually with the Governments of the various Arab states regarding the whole situation in the Near East." He added that the Soviet Government should at least be informed of these conversations. There was no reference in Gen. de Gaulle's statement to Mr. Churchill's request regarding the withdrawal of French troops to their barracks, and on the 2d he declared that the cease-fire order had been sent before Mr. Churchill's note had been received. "Naturally," the general added, "the French Government did not order the French Army in Syria and Lebanon to put itself under the British commander and so renounce our rights and the accord we signed with Britain [at Cairo, in July 1941]."

Replying to the U. S. note of the 28th, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault on June 1st reaffirmed France's pledge of independence to Syria and Lebanon, but declared that the defense of "centuries-old" French interests was a legitimate position not irreconcilable with that independence. Mr. Bidault claimed that movements of troops similar to that which produced such violence had hitherto never provoked protests, indicating that "certain local elements" favoring a policy of violence had long-laid plans to disturb the country.

On the 2d, General de Gaulle expanded his views on the Levantine problem. Emphasizing France's historic responsibilities in the Middle East and insisting that "the maintenance of order in Syria and Lebanon belong solely to France," he said that French efforts to improve the political and economic life of those countries had been hampered traditionally by two factors. Those obstructions, he claimed, were Syria's mixture of nationalities and religions and "the attitude of the British Government and crowds of British agents who were almost always hostile or at least critical." The international crisis in Syria, he continued, was precipitated by armed bands and gendarmerie,

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"who unfortunately carried arms furnished by the British in spite of warnings that had been given." General de Gaulle also said that the French had only 4,000 or 5,000 troops in the Middle East, but asserted that the British maintained an effective force of some 600,000 men, including the entire Ninth Army in Syria and Lebanon. He also took occasion to deny the use of American lend-lease material by French troops in Syria, and asserted that France had the right to use such material there if she wished since, he said, it belonged to France. General de Gaulle then said that France was ready to negotiate the whole Arab question, which he described as an international problem involving the "four great powers and the Arab states."

On June 5th Prime Minister Churchill, addressing the House of Commons, contradicted General de Gaulle's implication that recent troubles in the Levant had been provoked by the British, and expressed the hope that the earlier proposal for a British, French, and American conference in London to negotiate a settlement would not "be cast aside." The British have made every effort to preserve calm and prevent misunderstanding, Mr. Churchill declared, and they advised the French against sending in troop reinforcements during negotiations for a treaty. He denied that any arms had been issued to the Syrians and Lebanese "except by agreement with the French Government," though some arms were now being distributed to preserve order. In a review of the fighting in Syria, Mr. Churchill pointed out that the situation did not become tense until after the arrival of French reinforcements, and that the French had further aggravated the situation by patrolling in armored cars, flying over mosques at the hour of prayer and posting machine guns in prominent places. The Prime Minister said that "it was a pity" that the British had not been informed of the cease-fire order sent to the French commander in the Levant on May 30th, but that "the shelling of Damascus was certainly continued on the morning of May 31st." Casualties, he estimated, were some 80 Syrian gendarmerie and 400 civilians killed, and about 1,400 injured. In conclusion, Mr. Churchill advocated a three-power conference in London, for the inclusion of China and Russia "would certainly cause a great deal of delay and require very careful consideration on many grounds."

The Levantine press declared that the Syrians and Lebanese wanted no further contact with the French, and that as the result of their recent actions there was no possibility that France could obtain a special position or strategic bases in the Levant.

#### Operation Fido

A system of flaming petroleum jets was used at British fields to heat the air and thus disperse fog to enable aircraft to land, Geoffrey

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Lloyd, former Minister of Petroleum Warfare, disclosed on May 31st. Known as Operation Fido—Fog Investigation Dispersal Operations—this device was in operation at fifteen British airfields and one on the Continent, and it enabled some 2,500 Allied aircraft to land in dense fog. One of its most spectacular achievements permitted RAF Pathfinders during last Christmas week to take off from British airfields despite heavy fog to mark targets for the strategic bombing of German supply lines supporting the Ardennes counteroffensive.

"Fido" installations were described as consisting of three pipes—two on the ground and one above them—around the landing strip. These pipes, covering an area 2,000 yards long by 150 yards wide, are filled with petroleum. The lower pipes have a series of tiny holes at short intervals, and when ignited by a torch, a wall of flame, accompanied by smoke, bursts from these jets. The heat thus generated quickly causes the petroleum in the upper pipe to vaporize, after which the smoke subsides. As the air above the field is heated, the fog is evaporated, and within ten minutes a space 1,000 feet long by 150 feet wide can be clear. In calm conditions involving ground fogs, clearances of more than 500 feet high have been obtained in six minutes, but with cloud or sea fog and high winds it is sometimes difficult to reach as high as 100 feet. In order to get clear visibility the petroleum, which burns at a rate of twenty gallons per yard of burner an hour, must raise the temperature of the air seven degrees Fahrenheit. About 30,000,000 gallons of fuel were used up to V-E Day.

A wall of flaming petroleum would have met any attempt by the German Army to invade Great Britain in 1940, Mr. Lloyd revealed on the 3d. Taking advantage of the large supplies of gasoline then available, the British placed machines in strategic defiles through the cliffs, capable of discharging a blast of flame 300 yards long. Huge fuel tanks on hilltops could have sent a cascade of flame on any invaders, and containers dug into beaches were equipped to send flames 200 feet into the air. Drums of fuel catapulted by remote control were to protect strategic communications, and Bren-gun carriers were fitted with flame throwers for the protection of airfields. In addition, oil pipes were run hundreds of feet out into the sea, and plans were made to ignite oil pumped out from these pipes when it rose to the surface, by means of calcium phosphide. It was during an enemy test against such a defense by fire, Mr. Lloyd said, that German troops, clad in asbestos suits, suffered heavy casualties in the channel. The British spread the resulting rumor that an invasion had been attempted, and the RAF dropped leaflets on German troops in northern France pointing out the "very hot reception" awaiting any attempt to cross the Channel.

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**Iceland**

Iceland will be needed as a military base for only four or five months longer, according to Brig. Gen. Martinus Stenseth, U. S. commander in Iceland. After that time the only American forces remaining, he said, will be the staff at the main airfield near Reykjavik.

**Norway**

King Haakon VII is expected to return to Norway on June 7th, the fifth anniversary of his departure for Great Britain following the German invasion of his country, and the fortieth anniversary of Norway's complete break with Sweden. The King, who will arrive in Oslo aboard a British cruiser, will be accompanied by his daughter-in-law, Crown Princess Astrid, and her three children, all four of whom have been living in the United States during the war. All other members of the Norwegian Government and Crown Prince Olaf have already returned to Norway, where the Government will be reformed upon the King's arrival. The present Prime Minister, Johann Nygaardvold, arrived in Oslo on May 31st together with approximately 1,800 Norwegians who had made up the Norwegian Government-in-exile in London.

In order to assist British occupation forces in the evacuation of approximately 250,000 Germans, the 474th U. S. Infantry Regiment was expected to arrive in Oslo on June 4th. Included in this unit is the 96th Battalion, a contingent of Norwegian-Americans most of whom speak Norwegian and who were trained originally for an invasion of Norway. Brig. Gen. Owen D. Sommers is expected to command the Oslo military zone and 200 airborne troops will be attached to his command.

**Russia**

Prime Minister Churchill stated this week that the British transfer of warships to the Russian Navy was made in acknowledgment of Soviet demands for part of the Italian fleet. Great Britain turned over the battleship *Royal Sovereign*, eight former U. S. destroyers and four modern submarines, as well as another Britisher destroyer "to provide spare parts." The transfer took place on May 30, 1944, in the Firth of Forth. The Russians originally had asked for an Italian battleship, a cruiser, eight destroyers, four submarines and 40,000 tons of merchant shipping immediately after Italy's surrender, Mr. Churchill said. At Teheran it was decided that since the Italian ships were built for temperate Mediterranean waters they should continue in operation there for the Allies and that the Russians should receive an equivalent number of ships on temporary loan. The British Prime Minister, assuming "full responsibility" for the trans-

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action, disclosed that half of the merchant ships and all of the warships except the U. S. light cruiser *Milwaukee* had been provided by the British Government. Though he did not specify the American contribution outside of the *Milwaukee*, he implied that the United States provided half of the 40,000 tons of merchant shipping sought by the Russians. The final disposition of the Italian fleet will be left to the peace conference, Mr. Churchill said.

Despite the cessation of hostilities in Europe, the Soviets continue to indicate that the Red Army is to be maintained at a high level of efficiency. The biggest peacetime military training program ever ordered was announced on May 29th, with a nation-wide enrollment of 15- and 16-year-old boys from all parts of the Soviet Union. Declaring that military training now should be conducted on "an even higher level" than in the days of war, Lt. Gen. N. N. Pronin asserted that the peaceful period into which Russia has now entered should not divert attention from "the problems of defense." *Red Star*, the Soviet Army newspaper, reported that garrisons in Siberia and troops in Siberian military schools had left their bases for summer combat training camps. In another announcement the Moscow radio and press revealed that a single tank factory, formerly situated at Kharkov but now located in the Urals, had produced its 35,000th tank on May 25th—presumably the total production since its establishment in 1931. Stalin's letter of congratulation indicated that the factory's primary function would continue to be the production of tanks, though some capital goods also would be manufactured.

**Poland**

The organization of "Polish life" in Breslau is progressing, according to a Lublin radio broadcast on May 30th, and German place names in the area are being replaced by old Polish ones. Sixty per cent of Breslau was reported destroyed, with considerable damage in the center of the city but with the suburbs still intact. According to this account, Breslau had a population of about 1,000,000 in the latter years of the war, and at present there are some 160,000 persons, of whom 40,000 are Polish workers born in the city.

A later Lublin broadcast stated that Germans not engaged in reconstruction work must leave all Polish territory, including the "newly liberated western territories." The Warsaw Provisional (Lublin) Government was said to intend to transfer 7,500,000 Poles to former German territory. About 1,000,000 Poles were to be settled in the north and northwest area, 1,000,000 in Silesia, 4,000,000 in city areas and the remainder in Upper Silesia.

On June 5th the Polish Press Agency of the Lublin Government said that Soviet military authorities had transferred the Masurian

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area of East Prussia to Polish civil administrators. This region stretches eastward from Tannenberg across southern East Prussia.

As yet there has been no American or British recognition of the specific territorial claims of the Polish Provisional Government, although the Yalta agreement of the "Big Three" included a general provision that Poland should receive territorial compensation in the west and north, at the expense of Germany, for her concessions to Russia in the east.

#### Bulgaria

George M. Dimitrov, a former Secretary-General of the Agrarian Party, largest in Bulgaria, has been under the protection of Maynard B. Barnes, the United States diplomatic representative in Sofia, for more than a week, the State Department disclosed on June 2d. Dimitrov sought refuge from arrest by the local militia on the 24th. Since then Mr. Barnes has been attempting unsuccessfully to turn him over to Bulgarian authorities "in circumstances . . . providing adequate assurance that Mr. Dimitrov would be given effective protection from physical violence, and that his legal rights would be fully safeguarded." Dimitrov has been under criticism from the Communist press for his leadership of the conservative wing of the Agrarian party.

Similar protection was afforded by British diplomatic representatives in Bucharest to Gen. Nikolai Radescu, former Rumanian Premier. Gen. Radescu sought asylum from assassination early in March, shortly after he had been forced to resign as the result of Communist agitation, and he was released from British protection early in May after assurances of his safety had been given.

#### Greece

The Greek Government has announced that it "considers itself at war with Japan" without the necessity for a formal declaration, the Athens radio said in a domestic broadcast on June 2d. "Japan is fighting this nation's Allies," the broadcast stated. "Not only has Greece severed relations with Japan [shortly after Pearl Harbor] but she has also participated in many military operations against that country with her naval units."

A special court of justice is reported to have sentenced to life imprisonment Gen. George Tsolakoglu, former Greek Premier, who was accused of surrendering his forces to Germany in 1941 without the authority of the Greek High Command. Death sentences were said to have been imposed on two former Finance Ministers, and life sentences on five others, including the former Premier John Rallis. Numerous lesser sentences of up to 20 years were imposed and seven defendants were reported acquitted.

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#### Iran

The Iranian Government, it was revealed on May 30th, has requested the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union to withdraw all their troops from Iran now that the European war is over. The dispatch of Allied troops to Iran to protect the overland supply route to Russia and the country's rich oil resources was formalized in the Anglo-Russian treaty of alliance signed on January 29, 1942, which provided for the withdrawal of Allied forces "not later than six months" after the cessation of all hostilities between the Allied powers and Germany and "her present and future associates." This wording might conceivably be interpreted differently by the signatories in view of the continuing war against Japan, which was an "associate" of Germany.

The United States, though not a signatory of this treaty, became a participant in effect by guaranteeing its terms at the Teheran Conference. American forces in Iran, operating under the Persian Gulf Command, were Service of Supply troops, engaged primarily in managing and running Iranian railways. Recently these forces had been greatly reduced and as of June 1st the Persian Gulf Command was expected to cease its activities, according to Brig. Gen. Donald P. Booth. Gen. Booth announced also that the Command had transported 4,500,000 tons of munitions, food and equipment to the Soviet Union through Iran.

On June 4th, according to press dispatches, the three-week-old Government of 75-year-old Premier Ebrahim Hakimi fell, after failing to obtain a vote of confidence in Parliament. The reason for the Government's fall was not indicated.

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## THE AMERICAS UNITED STATES

### Japanese Balloon Attacks

According to a Japanese propaganda broadcast this week, the free balloon attacks on the North American continent, which have been on an "experimental scale," will be supplemented in the future by heavier assaults carried out by "death-defying airmen" who will man the bomb-carrying weapons. This prediction was made by a Lt. Col. Shozo Nakamima, who said the pilotless balloons were first launched against North American objectives on March 10th, Japanese Army Day, and that hundreds of them had been released daily since then.

In a report made public recently by the U. S. War and Navy Departments, it was explained that the enemy's balloon attacks had so far caused no property damage; however, one woman and five children were killed while picnicking in the Oregon mountains when one of them tugged at a grounded balloon and set off an explosion.

### Navy

The following reports of Navy construction, excluding small landing craft and district craft, were received during the week:

Type of Vessel	Keel Layings	Launchings	Deliveries or Commissionings
<b>COMBATANT:</b>			
Aircraft carrier.....			Lake Champlain
Heavy cruiser.....	Des Moines		
Destroyers.....	845 (not named)	Brinkley Bass, Sarsfield	Herbert J. Thomas
<b>MINE CRAFT:</b>			
Mine sweepers.....			Minivet, Towce
Motor mine sweeper.....			1
<b>PATROL CRAFT:</b>			
Patrol craft, escort.....			2
Motor torpedo boats.....	6	5	11
<b>AUXILIARY VESSELS:</b>			
Transports, high speed.....		Rogers Blood	Don O. Wood
Transport, attack.....		1	
Barrack ships, non self-propelled.....		1	3
Salvage craft tender.....			Laysan Island
Gasoline tanker.....			Mattabesset
Aircraft repair ship (aircraft).....			Fabius
Ocean tug, auxiliary.....			1
Net layer.....			Yazoo
Repair ship.....	Mars		
<b>AUXILIARY (CONVERSIONS):</b>			
Cargo ships.....			Clarion, Pembina
Cargo ship, attack.....			Tabora
Transport.....			Gen. D. E. Aultman
Repair ships, landing craft.....			Menelaus, Prosperine
Miscellaneous unclassified.....			Triana
Repair ship, internal combustion engine.....			Kermit Roosevelt
Hospital ship.....			Repose
<b>LARGE LANDING CRAFT:</b>			
Landing ship, dock.....	Point Defiance		
Landing ships, tank.....		4	3 <sup>1</sup>
Landing ships, medium (rocket).....	4	4	1
<b>FOR RUSSIA:</b>			
Motor torpedo boat.....			1

<sup>1</sup> Two of these in reduced commission.

General Alexander A. Vandegrift, Commandant of the Marine Corps, issued a statement this week explaining that the current discharge rate of Marines could not be increased through application of a point plan similar to the Army's because victory in Europe had not changed the combat commitments of the Corps, and therefore such a policy would result in "an appreciable decrease" of battle efficiency. Gen. Vandegrift said that when partial demobilization was directed, it was planned to put into operation a scheme which would insure a "rapid, equitable and orderly demobilization of Marine Corps personnel."

### President Truman on the Pacific War

President Truman this week sent a message to Congress in which he outlined the general plan by which our forces are being redeployed in order to defeat Japan "in the shortest possible time." To effect this aim, he said, the Navy will remain fully mobilized, our air forces will increase their strategic bombing of Japanese cities producing for the enemy's war machine, and the Army will be maintained at a strength of 7,000,000 men—of whom more than 3,500,000 will see overseas service in the Pacific. Arrayed against our services will be the Japanese Army of more than 4,000,000 soldiers backed by several million additional men of military age who have not as yet been called to the colors; an air force comprising some 3,000 combat planes—supported by an aircraft industry still capable of producing at the rate of 1,250 to 1,500 units a month; and a merchant marine and navy which, while no longer powerful, are still strong enough to supply the homeland and offer a threat to our seaborne operations.

Mr. Truman revealed that redeployment of our air and naval forces began sometime ago—the Navy transferring some of its units from the Atlantic to the Pacific even before the invasion of France, while the Army Air Forces started their shift in December of 1944 when a heavy bomber squadron returned to the United States for training in B-29's. Redeployment of the Navy and Air Forces is now well along, the majority of our surface units having already moved to the Pacific and the tempo of the air corps transfers being increased so that last month 20 bombardment groups received orders to move to the Pacific via the United States. Plans to transfer ground forces to the Far Eastern theatre are also progressing, with the Army Transportation Corps and the Air Transport Command expecting to remove 3,000,000 men from Europe within a year. In order to accomplish this vast exodus, 316 cargo ships being converted to transports, 50 regular transports, three British passenger liners, some German merchantmen, and 800 bombers and transport planes are being pressed into service.



Homefront production must keep pace with the intensified one-front war, the President emphasized. Although there will be, and already have been, sharp reductions in Air Force and Army ground force requirements, manufacture of naval goods must be maintained at its present level, and output of certain Army items will have to be increased. Munitions production is expected to run at an estimated rate of \$54,000,000,000 annually—almost equal to that of 1943.

#### Casualties

Announced American casualties as of June 5th totaled 1,006,545, a week's increase of 5,471. The Army's over-all figure was raised to 890,019 by the 3,494 casualties reported by that service; there were 1,977 naval losses recorded, bringing the total for the Navy to 116,526.

A breakdown of the Army figure shows: Killed 183,563, an increase of 1,824; wounded, 553,088, an increase of 2,582; missing, 52,746, a decrease of 5,056 representing men shifted to other lists; prisoners, including those liberated, 100,622, an increase of 4,144. The Provost Marshal of the European Theatre of Operations announced that virtually all American prisoners, including those in Russian-occupied areas, have been recovered and that more than two-thirds of them—roughly 64,000—have departed for the United States. Of the men still remaining in Europe, all except three or four thousand have been processed for departure, and the Army expects that the men awaiting transportation, approximately 25,700, will be home before the end of June.

Included in the Navy total were: Killed, 44, 882, an increase of 887; wounded, 56,639, an increase of 1,021; missing, 10,769, an increase of 77; prisoners, 4,236, a decrease of eight representing men now listed under different headings.

#### Lend-Lease

A Lend-lease program for the 1946 fiscal year totaling \$4,375,000,000, including \$1,975,000,000 in new appropriations and \$2,400,000,000 in unobligated balances from the current year, was outlined to Congress this week by President Truman. The President termed all proposed lend-lease schedules "most tentative" because of the changed war conditions, and he said the various agreements with different governments must be reviewed "from time to time" in the coming year. Recent mutual aid contracts entered into between the United States and France, Belgium and the Netherlands will be carried out to the "fullest extent" consistent with the basic war-time purposes of the act, but he proposed that further assistance to these countries be given through the medium of the Export-Import Bank.

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#### CANADA

The Canadian Government this week announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Bert M. Hoffmeister as commander of the Canadian Far Eastern Force. General Hoffmeister, who led the Seaforth Highlanders in the Sicilian campaign and later headed the Fifth Armored Division, will command the Canadian Sixth Division, which will operate with American forces.

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## MONTHLY SHIPPING REVIEW

Allied merchant shipping losses during May were 10 ships of 25,380 tons. Three ships totaling 10,000 tons were sunk by German submarines before the cessation of hostilities in Europe. A 5,300-ton United States collier, the *Black Point*, was sunk by U-boat on the afternoon of May 5th off the Rhode Island coast between Point Judith and Block Island. Thirteen lives were lost when the ship sank less than 5 miles from shore. Two small cargo vessels, the British *Avondale Park* and the Norwegian *Sneland Island*, were sunk by U-boat on the evening of May 7th while in convoy off the east coast of Scotland. Two ships were lost to mines. A 1,600-ton Italian trawler was destroyed May 26th off Leghorn, and a small Dutch merchant vessel, the *Mars*, carrying high octane gas was mined and sunk in the approaches to Patras on May 29th. Marine casualties totaled 5 ships of 12,000 tons; included in this category was the 9,000-ton British merchantman *Neuralia* sunk on May 1st by an Allied mine in the Gulf of Taranto.

Although a number of Allied merchant ships were damaged by Japanese aircraft off Okinawa, no Allied merchant shipping losses were reported from the Pacific.

The final month of Allied convoy operations in the Atlantic was marred by a number of collisions. On May 8th ships of two Allied convoys collided in the English Channel off Portland Bill; six United States Liberty ships were damaged in one convoy and two Liberty ships and a Norwegian tanker in the other. On May 18th the 10,200-ton U. S. tanker *Santa Paula* collided with a U. S. Liberty ship near Ambrose Light, and three other U. S. cargo vessels and one British merchantman were involved in collisions in a heavy fog five miles off Far Rockaway. On the night of May 27th an outbound convoy ran into icebergs 280 miles southeast of Cape Race, Newfoundland. Eleven ships were involved and three of them were seriously damaged.

Revised figures for April now indicate that 26 merchant ships of 126,000 tons were sunk during that month. Nineteen vessels of 104,000 tons were lost to enemy action, and of these 13 of 73,000 tons were sunk by enemy submarines. Marine casualties during April totaled 7 ships of 22,000 tons.

Soon after the cessation of hostilities on May 8th the majority of the German U-boats at sea in the Atlantic surrendered to Allied vessels or put into port. Of those previously estimated at sea no more than half a dozen are still unaccounted for as of this date, and some of this

number may have been sunk or scuttled. Eighty-eight German submarines are known to have been scuttled by their crews, nearly all in German ports, and an additional 158 U-boats were either found intact in enemy harbors or reached port safely after the surrender.

German submarines attacked 111 merchant ships in the Gulf of Mexico and Florida waters between February 1942 and V-E day, according to a recapitulation issued by Commander Gulf Sea Frontier. Ninety-two vessels were sunk, the vast majority of them in 1942. No estimate was made of the number of U-boats sunk by anti-submarine action in this time, but at least 34 different submarines were attacked.

The Tenth Fleet, established in the summer of 1943 to take charge of all anti-submarine warfare activities in the Atlantic, will be dissolved as of midnight G. C. T. June 11th. All anti-submarine duties heretofore performed by the Tenth Fleet and by the Assistant Chief of Staff (Anti-submarine), U. S. Fleet, will thereafter be performed by Cominch.



## SPECIAL ARTICLES

## JAPANESE NAVAL STRENGTH

One year ago the Japanese Fleet was a sizable force, powerful enough to be a constant threat to U. S. operations in the Pacific. Its major units had not been engaged in large-scale action since 1942 and the Japanese had been able to strengthen their Fleet by the addition of a modest number of fighting ships, most of them small escort vessels, a few destroyers and light cruisers.

Since that time the Japanese have suffered three major naval defeats, leaving their Fleet in a gravely weakened condition. On June 1, 1944, the enemy had available nine battleships, five CV's, five CVL's, five CVE's, fourteen CA's, ten CL's and numerous DD's. One year later, with the addition of some new construction, the Japanese Navy can muster but four BB's, four CV's, three CVL's, five CVE's, five CA's, two CL's and about forty DD's.

## Battleships

Reconnaissance photographs indicate that these remaining units are ill-prepared for battle. The battleship *Nagato* has been laid up at Yokosuka for several months and is now camouflaged. The *Haruna*, last surviving unit of the *Kongo* class, is anchored at Kure with construction in progress on her stern. No. 4 turret has been removed and a deck or platform is being installed. It may be that a refit similar to that undertaken on the battleships *Ise* and *Hyuga* is contemplated. These two ships had small aircraft stowage decks added abaft the mainmast in 1943-44. *Ise* and *Hyuga* appear to be operational, although of limited value as full-fledged battleships.

It is apparent that the aircraft deck did not meet with the success expected of it. Shortly after the disastrous Battle for Leyte Gulf, the catapults carried on these ships were removed and light A. A. weapons were placed on the broad afterdeck. It is possible that these are planned as huge anti-aircraft platforms. However, this anti-aircraft battery could hardly compensate for the loss of the four 14" guns sacrificed when the refit took place.

All remaining battleships are of ancient vintage, *Nagato*, the newest, having been completed in 1920. These units were thoroughly modernized before the war but still are no match for the fast, heavily-gunned Allied battle line.

Japan produced only two wartime battleships, the powerful *Yamato* and *Musashi*. The latter went down during the Leyte Gulf action

last October, and *Yamato* was sunk in her rash sortie off southern Kyushu in April of this year.

## Aircraft Carriers

The four first-line carriers, *Hayataka*, *Amagi*, *Katsuragi* and *Kasagi*, are moored in the Inland Sea. The Japanese have attempted to hide them from our search planes by rather elaborate net and foliage camouflage.

*Hayataka*, a conversion from the merchant liner *Kashiwara Maru*, is at anchor in Sasebo with *Kasagi* of the *Unryu* class, while the other two completed *Unryu* units, *Amagi* and *Katsuragi*, are under camouflage in Kure Harbor.

The *Unryu* class, 743-foot carriers built on large cruiser hulls, represents wartime construction. There were six units originally planned for this class. The name-ship, *Unryu*, was sunk last December. Construction of two other units, *Aso* and *Ikoma*, has not progressed past the hull stage, and work appears to have been suspended.

There are three light aircraft carriers in the Japanese Fleet, *Ryuho*, *Hosho* and one new carrier which has been tentatively identified as a conversion from the heavy cruiser *Ibuki*.

*Ryuho* is a conversion from the submarine tender *Taipei* and is similar in size and design to the *Zuiho*, which was sunk during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. *Hosho* has been employed as a training carrier throughout the war. This small carrier was completed in 1922 and modernized in 1940. She was Japan's first carrier and is much too small to be an effective combatant ship today.

The carrier designated as *Ibuki* was first photographed on April 16, 1945, in Sasebo. It is believed that the decision to convert *Ibuki* to a light aircraft carrier was made prior to her completion as a heavy cruiser. The carrier has not been completed—guns are not mounted and the two elevator platforms are not in place. She too has been camouflaged with netting. It is estimated that forty planes can be carried on this new carrier; her length over-all is 675 feet, with a flight deck width of 83 feet.

Japan's escort aircraft carrier program was intensified during the past year to provide additional small carriers for convoy duty. The Kawasaki Yards at Kobe completed one of these CVE's early this year; a second is fitting out. The ships are built on tanker hulls and are capable of carrying approximately thirty planes.

At Yokohama, Type TL (Modified) tanker hulls are being converted to merchant aircraft carriers, or "MAC" ships. These ships, measuring 520 feet over-all, have no elevators but carry an estimated twenty planes on deck and oil cargo below decks. One has been completed; there are possibly two more building.



A variation of this design has been photographed under construction at Inno Shima. This too is a "MAC" ship, estimated to be only 475 feet overall, and built on a merchant ship hull.

### Cruisers

The heaviest Japanese losses suffered in the past year, save for destroyers, have been in the heavy and light cruiser categories. Nine of the powerful 8" heavy cruisers have been sunk, while eight light cruisers have been destroyed.

This mortal blow to the Japanese cruiser strength has not been overcome by any construction comparable to the carrier-building program outlined above. *Ibuki* was the only heavy cruiser planned as wartime construction, and it is fairly conclusive that she has been converted to an aircraft carrier.

Of the five pre-war heavy cruisers remaining in the Japanese Navy, the *Takao* of the *Atago* class and one *Nachi* class unit are undergoing repairs in Singapore from damage sustained during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. Another unit of the *Nachi* class is also located in Singapore, while *Aoba* and *Tone* are at Kure.

Of the two CL's afloat, one is the *Oyodo*, which joined the Fleet during the past year. This ship is an unusual development of the *Agano* class, with her main battery of six 6.1" guns concentrated forward in two triple turrets. The after portion of the ship is devoted to aircraft stowage and handling. A large hangar, two cranes and a catapult are capable of handling at least four scout observation planes. Heavy cruisers of the *Tone* class were the prototypes for this design. *Tone's* four twin turrets are located forward and the stern is cleared for aircraft stowage and catapults. The only other light cruiser left to the Japanese is a unit of the *Agano* class.

### Destroyers

About 40 destroyers of all types are in service today. Operations during the past year have taken a huge toll of destroyers and have forced the Japanese to employ many smaller warships for normal escort duties.

The most outstanding recent addition to enemy destroyer strength has been the new *Matsu* class of escort destroyers. These 1,000-ton ships are designed for mass production. They are lightly armed, mounting three 5"/40 D. P. guns in one twin and one single mount, twelve 25 mm. A. A. M. G. and four 24" torpedo tubes. Several small A. A. guns are carried.

Destroyer construction has been centered primarily on the *Matsu* class, although some units have been added to the powerful *Terutsuki* class and to the *Takanami* class during the past year. One unit of the

*Shimakaze* class was completed in 1944. This destroyer is 410 feet overall, displacing 2,100 tons. *Shimakaze* is unique in that it mounts fifteen 24" torpedoes in quintuple mounts.

### Submarines

Construction of certain classes of Japanese submarines is being continued, and some new types and classes have been developed.

Units of the 2,100-ton I-15 class, a prewar design, are still being built. This class can carry planes, midget submarines or landing craft, and its units have been used successfully as transport submarines.

Two units of the 740-ton RO-500 class, built in Germany, are known to have been transferred to the Japanese in 1943. Other units of this class may have been transferred.

The Army-operated YU type transport submarine is the latest Japanese submarine development. This boat is a 290-tonner and measures but 137 feet overall. Its capacity is rated at 50 troops and 4-10 tons of cargo or 40-50 tons of cargo, including tonnage transported on deck. The internal capacity is 32.5 tons. It mounts one 37 mm. semi-automatic tank gun, Army type 98. The number of units in this class is not known.

A new I class submarine has been reported, I-201 class, consisting of five units. No data is available on performance.

### Escort Vessels

Japanese naval construction in the past two years has centered around the development of adequate small escort vessels, or Kaibokan, to protect the convoys of merchant ships and LSM's supplying the outlying garrisons.

At least two new designs have been developed, Kaibokan No. 1 class and Kaibokan No. 2 class, the former a diesel-driven stack aft ship, the latter steam-driven. These ships of approximately 800 and 1,000 tons respectively reflect mass-production in the simplicity of the hull design and the standardization of equipment. A new battery of twelve depth charge throwers has been developed for these newer escort vessels.

Grouped with these two classes are frigates of the pre-war *Shimushu* class and the more recent *Mikura* and *Ukuru* classes. These ships do not carry as much depth charge equipment as the Kaibokan No. 1 and No. 2 classes.

The Japanese have pressed into service many of their small warships for escort duty. Minelayers, minesweepers, torpedo boats of the *Chidori* class, sub-chasers—all are used in this capacity as the occasion demands.



These are the types of craft the U. S. forces face today. They are the only vessels which venture beyond the shelter of the Inland Sea on regular missions.

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The Japanese Navy, after three and a half years of war, has in effect become a "small warship" navy. The capital ships are too greatly outnumbered to risk a sortie against the vastly superior U. S. and British fleets, except in an all-out Banzai attack. The emphasis is now on construction of escort ships, quickly built, effective agents against our attacking planes and submarines. The large battleships and cruisers appear to be nothing more than mobile anti-aircraft positions, the carriers expensive camouflage laboratories.

## SEABEES EXPLORE FOR OIL IN THE ARCTIC

North of the Arctic Circle, in that part of Alaska which borders on Beaufort Sea, lies a huge tract of ice-fringed wilderness toward which the eyes of the Navy are now turned.

The Navy's interest in this land started with a book written by Charles D. Brewer many years ago. The book was called "Fifty Years Below Zero" and it told of Arctic explorations made by Brewer and his companion, Patsy Grey. Among other things, it related how these two came across a number of oil and gas seepages in the vicinity of Alaska's Cape Simpson. Although this happened in 1886, it was not until 1923 that any great interest in the discovery was aroused. In that year President Harding set aside 35,000 square miles in this northernmost part of Alaska as the Navy's Petroleum Reserve No. 4.

For approximately twenty-two years this Navy property has been a petroleum reserve of unknown value. Not until the terrific war-time drain on the oil fields of California focused attention on our diminishing petroleum resources were any steps taken to find out the worth of this tract. Now the Navy has begun a thorough geologic exploration of the most likely petroleum areas in N. P. R. No. 4.

Comprehensive plans for the exploration were drawn up under the direction of the Director of Naval Petroleum Reserve and approved by the Secretary of the Navy. The preliminary task of driving a wedge into this northern wasteland for subsequent mechanized operations was assigned to the ever-versatile Seabees. The officers and men picked for the job were carefully chosen for their specialized knowledge of petroleum exploration and production as well as for their amphibious experience in cold climate. A schedule had to be set up so that the expedition would arrive at Point Barrow during mid-summer when this northernmost Alaskan port was free of ice. Once the group established its beachhead on this Arctic front, operations were expanded "with ground and air support" until the amphibious Seabees had assembled all necessary equipment and technicians in preparation for the second phase of their mission. This was to prove the most difficult, involving the tractor train operations over 330 miles of snow and ice.

While the "landing force" was occupied at Point Barrow, small airborne reconnaissance parties from Fairbanks were investigating possible sites for scientific exploration, using seismographs, gravimeters, geologic mapping and core drilling. In April 1944, an officer-geologist in charge of one of the reconnaissance parties recognized structures favorable to an oil accumulation at Umiat Mountain



on the Colville River. The subsequent geologic mapping of this area during the summer of 1944 was the first scientific exploration for oil ever made in Navy Petroleum Reserve No. 4. As a result of favorable findings, Umiat was selected as the site of the first test wells.

The decision to drill at Umiat was followed by a survey of the overland route to this base from Point Barrow. The mapping of the roadless, trackless wilderness revealed many streams and swamps to be crossed. This could be accomplished only when the ground was frozen hard as macadam and the ice was thick enough to support the powerful D-8 tractors and their long sled trains of heavy equipment. Hence the Seabees had to wait at Point Barrow until late February before it was safe for them to begin moving their heavy oil derricks and drilling equipment over the ice fields and snow-covered tundra.

Operating in the bitter cold of thirty to fifty degrees below zero, it was found that the transportation job was no commonplace task—even for Seabees. Fortunately, however, a great deal of expert advice had been obtained in advance and the operation was planned with a full knowledge of the difficulties which would be encountered. From the very beginning the expedition was aided by the N. A. T. S. and the Army Air Force—also by the Army Signal Corps and Ground Forces, as well as by the veteran bush pilots of Alaska. As evidence of the value of this help, the Seabees have thus far accomplished more than 1,000 miles of tractor train operations in sub-zero weather without a single mechanical failure.

Each Seabee tractor train is made up of four tractors with a snowplow in front and twenty bob sleds and "go-devils" trailing on behind. The house sleds are called "Wannigans." They are used as living quarters, portable machine shops, radio stations, mess shacks and provision storehouses.

Ahead of the train, a snow jeep acts as the eyes of the unit, guarding against pressure cracks in the ice and dangerous snow drifts. Particularly difficult crossings are examined and tested by advance parties of the Army's crack Alaskan Scouts, moving entirely by dog sled. To complete the picture, a small ski-equipped "air-jeep" is constantly overhead, guarding the progress of the train. During the entire trip, radio communications are maintained with Point Barrow, Umiat, a relay station and the "air jeep". By means of handy-talkies this communication network is extended down to the individual snow jeep.

For the thousand miles already covered by the arctic tractor trains, the average speed has been only slightly more than one mile

an hour—this in spite of the fact that travel continues day and night without interruption. As a matter of fact, the only times when the tractor trains are stopped during a trip is for fueling or servicing—or when blinded by snow blizzards.

As this goes to press, final arrangements are being completed for the drilling of the first test wells at Umiat. If the wells are productive, then—in the not too distant future—the nation may find itself richer by many millions of barrels of oil.



## JAPANESE PLANS FOR A FIFTH COLUMN IN LUZON

The following document, "Plans for Fifth Column Activities," was issued on November 20, 1944 by the Force Headquarters of the Japanese 105th Division, Southern Army, and was captured in March north of Antipolo, Luzon. The translation was made by the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section, Southwest Pacific Area.

Fifth column activities facilitate operation by the group as well as demoralize the combat power of the enemy. The main object of fifth column activity is to estrange Filipinos from the Americans and to induce them to assist our troops. Fifth column activity will be prepared prior to American landings.

Preparations embrace: organization and training of fifth column forces; setting up of bases for guerilla warfare; inciting anti-American feeling among the Filipinos. Moreover, as the eradication of enemy propaganda and guerrillas decreases enemy interference, it is of extreme importance to our troops in securing communication networks, collecting resources and constructing positions.

In compliance with our Operation Order B-4, individual forces will organize, train and deploy guerrilla units in important operational areas, rear echelon garrison areas and communication network sectors. Upon reconnoitering terrain features and the guerrilla situation, preparation will be made by establishing bases and key points for guerrilla warfare. Bases for guerrilla warfare will be selected by taking into consideration: Convenience of locality for obtaining information; terrain features affording natural protection; facility with which guerrilla units can advance.

Those bases having the requisite defensive facilities, ammunition and rations dumps and living quarters must be well concealed. Key points will be chosen in suitable localities either for collecting information or for use as a temporary base. It is advantageous to establish bases and key points in areas where troops are stationed. In any event, secrecy of plan is of utmost importance.

In the north of Albay Province (particularly north of Pili and south of Naga), important points to be used for the purpose of counteracting enemy propaganda and eradicating guerrillas will be established at main traffic centers, major harbors, proposed operational areas, and airfields and adjacent vicinities. Punitive action and propaganda will be carried out expressly to arouse internal strife among enemy guerrillas and to exterminate guerrilla chiefs.

Pro-Japanese propaganda will be designed to alienate the public

from the guerrillas and Americans, thereby impelling them to assist us in the collection of information and intelligence. In general, propaganda propounding our holy mission, the great battle results achieved by the Imperial Army and defeats and cruelties of the American Army will be disseminated among the Filipinos to bring home to them the realization that America cannot be trusted.

Fifth column activities after American landings will be for the purpose of demoralizing American combat power and estranging the general public from the Americans. Guerrilla warfare against American troops will be conducted in conformity with "Outline of Guerrilla Warfare." Based on preparations already illustrated in the foregoing, guerrilla activities will be executed with conviction and energy so as to strike terror into the hearts of Americans. Propaganda must always give the impression that Filipinos are fully supporting us. To do this, conceal troop movements and use deception, so that attacks and demolition look as though they are the deeds of Filipinos or guerrillas. Guerrilla units must infiltrate deeply into the enemy lines and disrupt enemy plans.

Since the enemy prefers materialistic warfare with airplanes, tanks, various types of radios and signal equipment, etc., all such equipment must be destroyed as well as the personnel required for its operation. Destruction of bridges will precipitate extreme supply difficulties for the enemy. In addition, attempts to kill or injure large numbers of personnel will frighten the enemy. It must be realized that robbing him of his spirit thus is of inestimable value. To effect this, rear billeting areas etc., are strongly recommended for attack.

Efficacy of guerrilla warfare depends on flexibility and successful adaptation to the operation in question. Therefore closest liaison with the unit engaged in combat must be maintained, so that, contingent upon the progress of the operation, guerrilla warfare may be launched at the most propitious time and against targets and in areas which will be most acutely felt by the enemy.

Front line battalions after an enemy landing, will first organize a suicide assault unit (*Kirikimo Tai*) which will attack the enemy's bridgehead. During this time, the guerrilla unit will be waiting at a point advantageous to subsequent guerrilla operations. Or, if the terrain, boat situation, etc., permit, the unit may pierce the enemy flank deeply by attacking from the sea. If this is done hastily, our plan is revealed, effectiveness of the maneuver is limited and major damage cannot be inflicted.

Pro-Japanese propaganda designed to induce Filipinos to assist us must be disseminated constantly. Such propaganda, either printed



or verbal, based on defeats of the enemy, controversies in the enemy country and the sad plight of families of the soldiers, etc., demoralizes the enemy. Prisoners of war and documents found on enemy dead will be examined for the purpose of finding their names, birthplace, etc., which can be used by the Army for propaganda and also broadcast to the enemy country in an effort to diminish their will to wage a prolonged war.

In spreading propaganda among the Filipino population and guerrillas, exaggerate the cruelties of American soldiers toward the Filipinos. State that the cruelty of the American Army towards the Filipinos is certain to continue. Make them aware of the kindness of the Japanese Army. Make them aware of the reverses suffered by the American Army; if necessary, relate the victories of the Japanese and losses of the Americans in other sectors. Prepared intelligence reports are in so far as possible to be made at Force Headquarters.

Force Headquarters will prepare a counter-intelligence plan, and will use the guerrilla units under its command for the direct execution of the plan. Each sector unit will use guerrilla units formed from among their subordinate forces to carry out counter-intelligence activity based on the Force plan. The personnel dispatched by the Bicol Sector Liaison Officer and from the Area Army, the Resident Japanese Group, etc., will be allocated by the Force Commanding Officer before the American landings, and at the time of the landings will receive instructions and will carry out counter-intelligence activities in close liaison with senior staff officers.

Guerrilla units within forces under direct command of Force Commanding Officer, as well as sector units, will carry out counter-intelligence work upon special order. Each force engaging in counter-intelligence activity will be allotted the requisite materials and money. In addition a certain amount of money will be allotted for special expenditures. In the procuring of funds, force commanders will see to it that under no circumstances are Filipinos forced into contributing or any other misdeed perpetrated. Reports will be made at appropriate times regarding the following: counter-intelligence force organizations; counter-intelligence preparations; execution of plan; progress; results of counter-intelligence. Reports through channels will also be immediately submitted to Force Headquarters if new means of counter-intelligence are carried on, or methods not covered by the present plan are adopted, or if a plan is adopted which will have effect on sectors other than the local one.

Attention must be given to secrecy of the plan and to what extent this secrecy will be maintained. Attention must also be given to the protection of Filipinos involved in the counter-intelligence work, as

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well as to their maintaining secrecy. It is vital that our plan does not become known.

Get information regarding enemy counter-intelligence quickly. Use it to determine what measures and steps they are taking. This will enable us to "beat them to the draw" and stifle their plan. In the event the enemy intelligence is learned and enemy intent is ascertained, immediately notify all forces concerned.

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The O. N. I. WEEKLY invites officers of the Navy to contribute eyewitness accounts of action and other material of general naval interest which is suitable for use in a Confidential publication. These articles may be of any length up to two or three thousand words. Contributions should be forwarded through Commanding Officers to the Director of Naval Intelligence