

Washington Digest

'Bombs' Steel Center In Imaginary Flight

'Briefed' at Army Air Forces' School for Raid On Yawata; Follows Course Over Huge, Realistic Map.

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How would you like to bomb the Yawata steel works in a flying fortress?

I did it without moving from my classroom seat in Orlando, Fla., in one of the courses I attended at the army air force school of applied tactics. It is part of the "post graduate" instruction of the high officers of the army and it really is a realistic "briefing." When I had finished that demonstration, as it is called, I actually felt as if I had been on that bombing mission which started at an unnamed base in China and flew straight to a target, which is as clearly pictured in my mind as if I had made the trip.

I'll try to reenact it for you. First, imagine a great map stretching across the room in which you are sitting with two black lines on it. The lower line runs, with a few slight deviations, straight to the target in Japan. Then there is a short leg running north and the second line, a little above the other, running back to the base. This is the course we took.

"Now, men," says the officer standing with a pointer in his hand, "you are going to bomb the steel works at Yawata. Daylight precision bombing and naturally you'll meet a little more opposition. But you know the importance of steel. I don't need to talk about that. You have been selected for your record last time. Keep up that record."

"As you know this is the first time for the new stagger formation. You've practiced it. I won't go into that. We have just 45 minutes to check the whole plan. We start at 6:50 and the first ship goes down the runway at 7:00."

(Military clocks theoretically run 24 hours. If the number is above 12, subtract 12. For instance 16:30 is 4:30 in the afternoon—16:30 minus 12 equals 4:30.)

Then came some directions about "assembly" (where this group joins the formation) which I won't go into here since space isn't adequate, but anyhow the assembly point is Chengtu.

Level Off For Bomb Run

"We must be at Chengtu at 8:00. Climb at 190 miles an hour to this point here (the pointer taps the map) . . . to 1,500 feet and level off. 200 miles per hour . . . this junction (another tap) 940; then swing on course . . . 91 degrees . . . (the pointer swishes out along the black line) to the coast.

"Here is your second climb . . . 1212 . . . 190 miles per hour . . . 300 feet a minute . . . to bombing altitude, at check point of island at 1245 (the pointer touches a little island off the Jap coast) . . . it will look like an inverted pyramid . . . then level off to the IP." (That is the point of entry which must be definitely established, for the flight from there on is directly to the target and careful synchronization with the other planes must be made.)

"Show a yellow-yellow flare so we'll know you've reached the IP . . . if dark, toggle four-and-a-half over the bomb run, then to the rally point, 14 miles north of target.

"If you are crippled going over the target, try to cut short your turn. . . ."

"I'll explain that: you see normally the planes would go north from the target and then turn at a right angle to the assembly point. Then another right angle back toward home, so if a plane had been hit and couldn't last long, it must try to catch up with the others and make known its condition. If the plane lags behind, it may be located by the group leader who will make continuous s-turns, looping back, trying to locate any stragglers. Meanwhile (as I forgot to explain) there is a friendly submarine loafing somewhere within radio call for two purposes. First, to try to locate any plane that has been forced down into the water; second, to pick up information concerning any enemy ships which the planes may have spotted so the sub can go over and take a poke at them.

I cannot in this space give you a fraction of the detail of this briefing, which pointed out on the map every hazard, every advantage, every varying condition. Special areas were blown up in large size: as a lake serving as a landmark where the planes start their ocean jump, a peculiarly shaped river where they reach land again. Sketches are furnished by meteorologists, showing just the types of clouds they will encounter, some "full of rocks" (covering mountain peaks) which are to be avoided.

The known location and number of enemy fighter planes is marked, as are the antiaircraft guns, and the temperature and the wind velocity at various levels.

Target's There, Then Gone

As to the target itself, large scale aerial pictures were shown which looked very much as the actual terrain would look to the pilot and bombardier. Also, a map of the whole city. Then a map of the target area, then photos of the target area, taken from an angle, as it will look when the plane approaches it from a distance, and another as it will look when it is directly below—the important moment.

That last statement "directly below" is misleading, as I found out. What you see when you look through the glass walls of the bomber's "nose" and what you see when you look through the bombsight are two quite different pictures. What you see when you look through the bombsight is the area (far ahead of where your plane is) upon which the bomb will hit if released at that precise instant. Naturally, at the speed at which a plane travels, the inertia of the bombs carries them far ahead as they fall.

This is disconcerting to the layman. I looked through the glass of the nose and picked me out a little Florida lake upon which I decided to drop my imaginary bomb. Then I looked into the sight and there was no lake there! Too late! If I had released my bombs then, they would have hit far beyond the distant shore although the plane hadn't even reached the near shore, yet.

But to return to my synthetic flight. I find it impossible to recount it with half the realism with which it was presented to me as my eyes followed that moving pointer from base to assembly point to "bomb line" (where the planes cross into enemy occupied terrain) on to the target itself, with the looping tracks that bounded it and then back, north and west again, over water and land, lake and mountain, on the long trek home.

After the briefing was finished four men in uniform took seats on the platform. They were men with stars on their service ribbons and some purple hearts, too. Men of many missions just such as the one described, or they would not have been chosen as instructors in this post graduate university of the air.

And they acted out with startling conviction the briefing of a returned crew. One, his nerves on razor edge from what he had gone through, another a little dazed, as if he had had a few drinks too many, another solemn, wide-eyed, another jumpy, loquacious, controversial, all true-to-life types, we are told.

Carefully and tactfully the officer checked their conflicting statements until finally all were molded into a reasonable and rational report.

"How many enemy fighters . . . here?"

"Oh, 80, easy," said the jumpy one.

"How many do you say?" (to the fellow in the half-daze).

"Well, a lot of 'em, I didn't count."

"Enough anyhow. And you didn't warn us about the others here," says the slap-happy one as he jumps up and jabs the map.

Finally it settles down to about 50. This estimate will be checked as other crews are checked, and an accurate estimate is obtained. The same careful and studied analysis of data on troop concentrations observed, movements along highways, convoys, new landing strips, as well as the damage done to the target.

When 'Big Three' Wrote History



Center, a view of the palace in Yalta, Russian Crimea, where President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin held their latest conference. Lower, shows the conference in session with the "Big Three" and their advisers. Upper, the "Big Three" during the Crimea conference which resulted in the writing of future world's history.

Liberator Views Hospital Ruins



General of the Army Douglas MacArthur looks over the ruins that once constituted the hospital on Clark field, Luzon, Philippines. The hospital was completely wrecked by retreating Japs. The general stated that it was one of the worst cases of destruction he had ever seen, and he has seen some of the worst of two world wars.

Gas Pipelines Laid in France



A pumping station, one of many set up along the pipeline carrying vital fuel oil in France. Upper photo shows station carefully camouflaged against air observation. Lower left, ship-to-shore line for unloading petroleum from ships. Lower right, American engineers have laid this gasoline pipeline in France, five miles inland.

Must Go Down to the Sea Again



A typical hardy coastguardman, left, who will match his skill and strength against the unconquerable sea. He is shown on lookout. Right, Coastguardman Carl F. Martin, Benton, Ill., all wrapped up to man a spray gun on ship's superstructure while still at sea. Repair work must go on at sea and not in dry docks except in rare cases.

Welcome Liberators



Filipino guerrillas march in the streets of San Fernando, after the town had been liberated by the victorious American forces. They shout "V for Victory" and "Welcome, Americans" as they carry the Stars and Stripes aloft during parade.

Saves Dog in Drain



Police Officer George Spriggs of San Marino, Calif., lifts "Jiggs" and his owner, Richard Nelson, 6, out of storm drain after boy had spent three hours in it with the dog, which had fallen in. A neighbor saw the pair and called for aid.

Tilden Plays Again



"Big Bill" Tilden, known to tennis fans for his powerful overhead smash, goes for a high one as he practices for his match to be held at the 71st regiment armory, New York City, for the benefit of the "Gros-singer Canteen by Mail."

Baseball's Magnate



Jordan Lewis, 16, who, as owner of one share of Chicago Cubs' stock, attended his first stockholders' meeting and gave some very definite ideas on how to run a league club.



Washington, D. C.
GERMAN UNDERGROUND SEETHES

According to "uncensored" dispatches now reaching Washington, active guerrilla warfare is flaring up on a mounting scale behind the German lines.

First real indication of an active Fifth column in Germany came recently with accurate reports of pitched battles inside Berlin, Breslau and Bremen. This new guerrilla warfare differs from that of partisan units inside France, Yugoslavia and Greece in that few of the guerrilla troops are Germans. The bulk are Frenchmen and Russians who were captured earlier in the war and have been used as slave labor in the reich.

All of these workers were carefully guarded by Himmler until recently. Most lived in big cities and worked in large industrial plants. In Berlin for example, hundreds of thousands of slave laborers have been housed in fenced off temporary barracks in the heart of the city.

But recent powerful allied air raids have created such chaos that thousands of foreign workers escaped from their enclosures and have hidden in the bomb ruins.

At night, the guerrillas prowled the streets, capture Nazi sentries, steal food and ammunition, commit extensive sabotage. They have been joined by some German army deserters, afraid to return to the front, advises say.

Once Berlin is taken it is expected that the several million slave laborers will flare into such revolt that Germany—except in the mountainous south—will cave like an egg-shell.

OVER-AGE SERVICEMEN
Greatest hardship on men in the army probably is with enlisted men over 38, now too old to become officers but who can't resign as officers can.

Typical case of how this hardship works is that of Cpl. Alexander C. Sioris, age 45, who has served in the army three years, most of the time overseas. Corporal Sioris is not only a college graduate, but holds a doctor's degree. Twice he was recommended for officers' training school, but each time his unit moved overseas and he had to sail with his unit. Now he is too old to be commissioned, too old for combat, yet under present army rules must be kept on—doing menial jobs.

There are thousands of similar cases. What the army needs is a good overhauling of its manpower, especially older men who have been in the army a long time.

NEW MANPOWER PROGRAM

War Manpower Commission Director Paul McNutt may put a new program into effect very soon in all light labor areas. This would limit employers in non-essential or less essential industries to a certain percentage of the number of workers they employed last year. This ceiling-employee program has already been tried out in Chicago and proven successful.

Chicago employers in non-essential and less essential industries will be required to cut the number of employees on the payroll 10 per cent by March 15.

SECRET RED WEAPONS

The Russians are way ahead of both the United States and Great Britain in the use of rocket guns, have employed them with devastating effect in the lightning drive through Poland, and particularly in the offensive against the Nazis in East Prussia.

One new and very important weapon which Stalin unveiled in the new drive is the 100-ton tank named after himself. The Stalin tank is superior to the German royal tiger tank, and our own Sherman heavy tank. It carries a 4.8-inch gun as against the 3-inch gun carried on our Sherman. So long as the ground remains hard, the Stalin tank is capable of resisting any but the largest point-blank German shells. On the other hand, the mobile gun on the Stalin tank can pierce most of the German secondary fortifications so far encountered by the Russians, it is said.

WAR NOTES

German forces are already trying to escape from the threatened Nazi homeland. Reports from Lisbon, Madrid, Stockholm and Berne reveal hundreds of Germans trying to crash the frontier to get out of Germany before the Allies take over.

FDR still hasn't decided who he will name as high commissioner of the Philippines. WMC Director Paul McNutt and Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy both are ready to go. If Murphy takes it, Roosevelt will nominate Judge Sam Rosenman to the Supreme court.

A significant new Slav treaty is now being negotiated. It will bind together the Czechoslovak government and the Lublin-Polish government in the first step toward the creation of an eastern European Slavic alliance—naturally with Moscow's blessing.

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

AGENTS WANTED

LADY WANTED in every community, both rural and city, to sell line of household necessities to her neighbors. Our line includes such articles as cheese and laundry soap. Liberty Commission, General Products Company (U-S), Albany, Georgia.

High-Priced Timber

A South African wood, known curiously as "stinkwood," highly prized because it permits a beautiful walnut-like finish to furniture and other articles made of it, is the highest priced timber in the world. To preserve the trees the government has closed the forest where they grow for 200 years.

Pull the Trigger on Lazy "Innards"



WHEN CONSTIPATION makes you feel punk as the dickens, brings on stomach upset, sour taste, gassy discomfort, take Dr. Caldwell's famous medicine to quickly pull the trigger on lazy "innards" and help you feel bright and chipper again.

DR. CALDWELL'S is the wonderful senna laxative contained in good old Syrup Pepsin to make it so easy to take. MANY DOCTORS use senna preparations in prescriptions to make the medicine more palatable and agreeable to take. So be sure your laxative is contained in Syrup Pepsin.

INSIST ON DR. CALDWELL'S—the favorite of millions for 50 years, and feel that wholesome relief from constipation. Even snicky children love it. CAUTION: Use only as directed.

DR. CALDWELL'S SENNA LAXATIVE
CONTAINED IN SYRUP PEPSIN

How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION
for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

STRAINS, SORENESS CUTS, BURNS

A favorite household antiseptic dressing and liniment for 98 years—Hanford's BALSAM OF MYRRH! It contains soothing gums to relieve the soreness and ache of over-used and strained muscles. Takes the sting and itch out of burns, scalds, insect bites, oak and ivy poisoning, wind and sun burn, chafing and chapped skin. Its antiseptic action lessens the danger of infection whenever the skin is cut or broken.

Keep a bottle handy for the minor casualties of kitchen and nursery. As your druggist-trial size bottle 35¢; economy size 65¢; economy size \$1.00. G. C. HANFORD MFG. CO., Syracuse, N. Y. Sole makers of.

Balsam of Myrrh

WOMEN IN '40's Do You Hate HOT FLASHES?

If you suffer from hot flashes, feel weak, nervous, a bit blue at times—all due to the functional "menopausal" period peculiar to women—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such annoying symptoms. Pinkham's Compound is made especially for women—it helps nature and that's the kind of medicine to buy! Follow label directions. LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND

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Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well 24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood. If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling. Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys to help them to flush out poisonous wastes from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The "work or else" bill bogged down in the senate. Perhaps because the senate is already over-worked.

Some French banks hold the phoney German "reichmarks" as part of their assets. Well, it might help the paper shortage anyhow.

On January 8, General Yamashita said: "Japanese forces are ready to destroy the enemy with one stroke should he choose to land on Luzon." Some prophets are without honor outside of their own country.

They are talking of using silver to make ball bearings for automobiles. They ought to go pretty well with some of the gilded youth if there are any left over when the war prosperity ends.