

Washington Digest

Troop Shift to the Pacific Big Job With Human Side

Need to Finish Fight Against Japanese Prevents Wholesale Release of Vets; Move Will Tax U. S. Shipping.

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The American vocabulary has been enriched by a new word which has burdened the notebooks of war department stenographers in Washington for a long time. When I was in San Francisco I saw its meaning graphically illustrated.

The word is "redeployment." No, I didn't make a typographical error. Redeployment we have heard about before. Redeployment is different. And in that word, as in Hauptmann's "tear," can sparkle "all the joy and all the sorrow of the world."

This new word isn't in any dictionary. And in all the echoing acres of the Pentagon I could find no official definition of it but in its current application it simply means shifting a lot of American boys out of the European theater of war where the curtain has gone down. That process is causing many a headache in the Pentagon. It will cause many a heartache at home and abroad. It will cause some happiness, too.

For the boys and the families of the soldiers and sailors who are cast for the second act in the tragedy of World War II (and that is most of them) redeployment means heartaches. For the others it means happiness. But whether they go back to Main street and take up the plowshare or the pen, the hammer or the school book, or whether they go on to fresh battlefields, it is a headache as well as a heartache for the high command.

Heartache, Headache For Officers

Before writing this article I had a long conversation with one of the highest of the high command and I can tell you redeployment is both headache and heartache for him. He and all his officer comrades who have sons and grandsons of their own fighting at the front want them back as much as any rear rank private's mother, dad, sweetheart or wife, wants him.

But few outside those more or less intimately concerned realize the mechanical implications of managing this major migration of history in the moving of more than three million men.

Have you any idea how long the mere physical process of simply loading soldiers, one after another, on ships and sending them back to America would take?

I do not have official figures although they should be released shortly, but I have an estimate on good authority, of the time which would be required to transfer three million men now in Europe across the Atlantic to east coast ports. Assuming that the transport facilities available were devoted exclusively to this mission, perhaps three hundred thousand men a month could be carried home. That would mean that 10 months would be required to transfer them all. And, of course, that is a fantastic supposition, since ships as well as men, are needed in the Pacific and so are ships to carry the endless supplies which the army of the Pacific will require to carry on all-out warfare.

Redeployment, materially and morally, is a tremendous task and, as a result of personal conversations with the top men upon whom its twin burdens rest, I can assure you that the question of morale is, if anything, the greater of the two in their consideration.

There is no question that the suffering and the repercussions of the lengthy separation of young men from their normal life will become greater, now that V-E Day has come and gone. The army high command knows this and that is why so much time has been spent on taking every possible step to minimize the suffering which this slash that cuts across the heartstrings of America's social life, will cause.

I happen to know that busy with the terrific burden of bringing Europe's war to a successful termination and beginning the final portion of chapter two, General Marshall himself for many long months has spent hour after hour of his crowded days and interrupted nights working on this problem.

BARBS... by Baukhage

Congress is going to look into the question of sugar being diverted into the manufacture of bootleg whiskey. Meanwhile tipplers say that a lot of sugar is being diverted into alcohol to dilute good whiskey.

The conservative is a man who has something to conserve to which he isn't too sure he has a legal title. A radical is a guy who hopes so.

Everybody Must Play the Game

There are some phases of this shift of our main war effort from one side of the world to the other which many do not realize but for which they must be prepared. In the first place, it will be no easy task for those who have fought the good fight in Europe to be transferred to the Pacific without a chance of furlough in between. Some will have that privilege but not all. And even for the lucky ones the second parting will be hard unless the families play the game.

There is another group who will see America's shore but will not be allowed even to touch American soil. They are the ones who will pass through the Panama canal on a non-stop trip to points in the East. That will be a tough experience—to see Old Glory waving from flagstays in the Canal Zone and to watch its colors fade in the distance. It simply cannot be helped.

But perhaps, temporarily at least, the hardest test of patience and self-discipline will fall upon those who know that they are to be discharged, but who, because war takes the priority and the fighters must go first, can only sit and wait in Europe.

Aside from the personal anguish which this delay will mean, it is bound to raise a clamor from motives natural enough but nonetheless selfish, of those whose economic situation is suffering from the necessary delay in reinforcing our civilian manpower with the soldiers whose services are no longer needed but who cannot be moved back home immediately.

Before General Gregory, in charge of the great housekeeping department of the army, the quartermaster corps, left for France in anticipation of V-E Day, I had a long talk with this gray-haired, fatherly man who is loved by his comrades with a warmth of affection that outglows the well-earned stars on his shoulder-straps.

When I talked to him about redeployment, although he is responsible for the physical rather than the moral welfare of the soldier, it was of the latter of which he spoke first.

How are the folks at home going to take it? That was the question on his tongue, just as it had been in the minds of the high officers and officials with whom I had talked before.

I learned a lot from General Gregory and his aides about the tremendous industrial effort which it takes to produce what the army wears and eats and with which it is shaved and laved and sheltered. As long as there is a man in uniform he must be fed and clothed and furnished supplies from helmets and raincoats to socks and shorts to say nothing of a thousand odds and ends including writing paper, soap (they have a kind that will serve to wash clothes as well as bodies, and shave with too, and lather in salt water), tobacco, bug-powder, cigarettes, bandages, shoelaces, razor blades, matches... ad infinitum.

Thousands of men clad in woollens required by European weather will have to be supplied with cotton for the tropics. Thousands moving from the tropics toward the more northerly latitudes of the Japanese islands and China must have woollens to replace their cottons.

Meanwhile, they will have to continue to wear and to wear out what they now have on.

Another factor is the length of the Pacific "pipe-lines"—the great distances from base to front. The "turn-around" time of the voyage of ships is longer than the voyage to Europe and there must be enough supplies at hand for the troops to cover the period between each delivery.

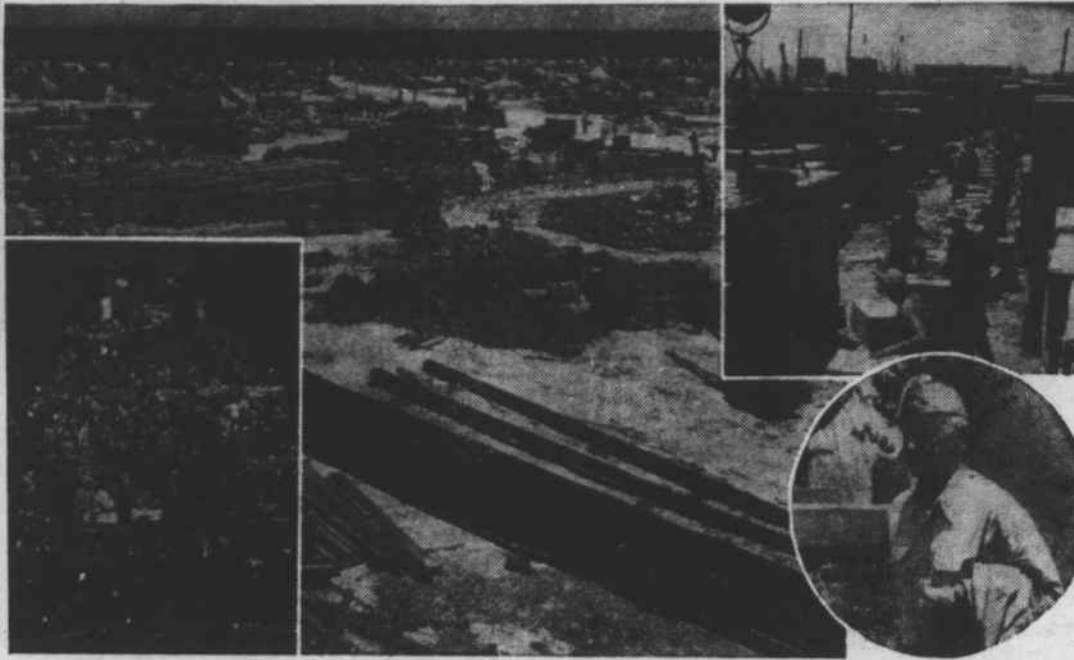
All this will require continued manufacture by private industry for military use for a long time which means that much longer to wait for final conversion to civilian production.

This is why this new word "redeployment" is not a happy one and why it holds within it so many heartaches and so many heartaches which will try the coolest heads and strain the stoutest hearts:

Ely Culbertson, former bridge expert, attended the San Francisco conference and gave suggestions. (Not bad ones, either.) He also objected to lack of leadership by the Americans. He didn't like the veto of aggressive action by the security council.

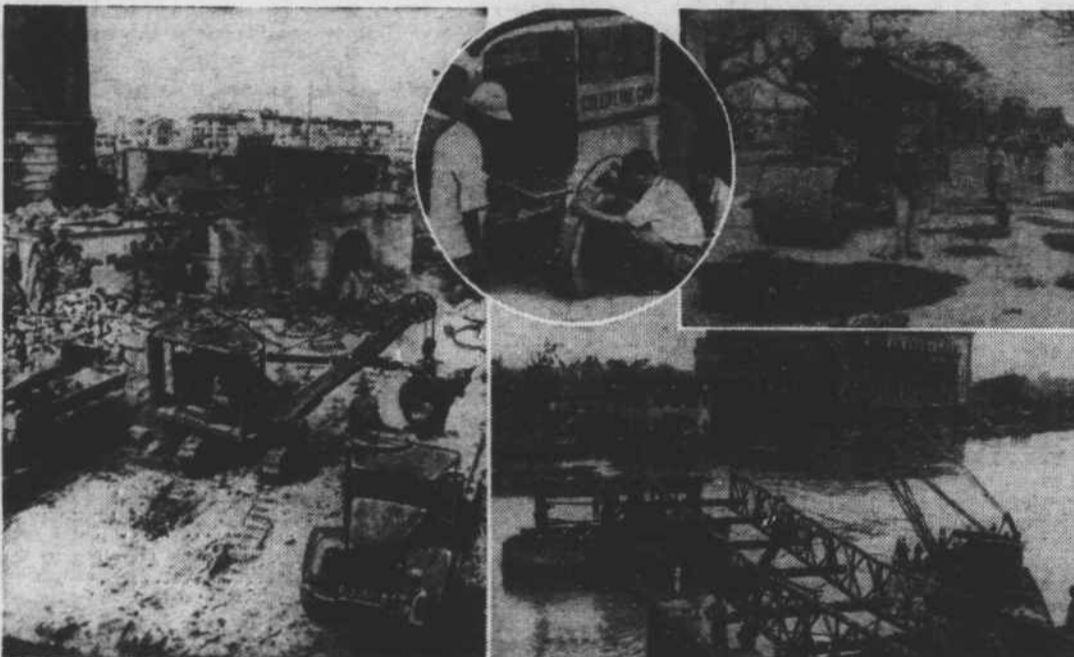
A woman is known by the enemies she makes (for her husband).

Backing the Attack on Okinawa Island



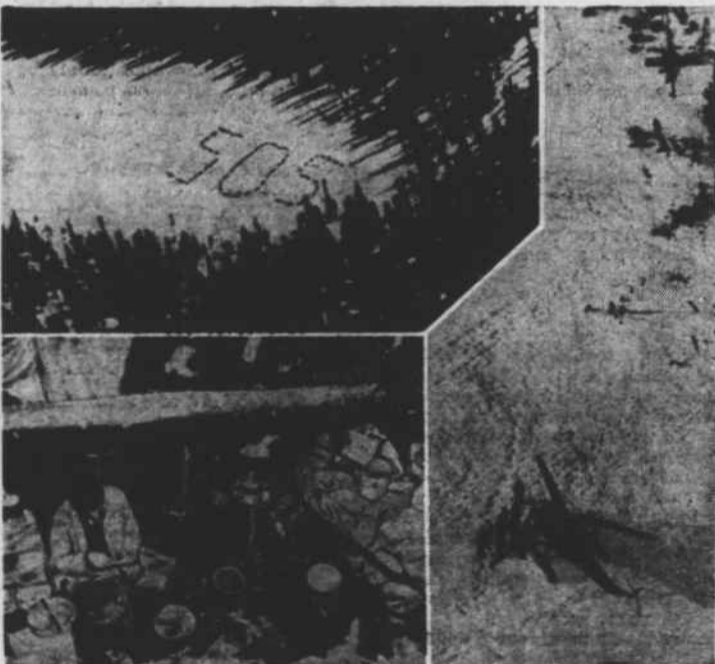
The problem of unloading vital supplies for the American invaders who have been fighting their way inland, yard by yard, on the 78-mile-long Okinawa island, has been a big one. Picture at lower left shows an LST approaching shore with supplies. Center: Supplies are landed. Upper right: Necessities of life and war, row after row, line the dusty beach on this far Pacific isle. Circle: Fleet Commander Chester W. Nimitz.

Out of the Ashes of War Arises a New Manila



Manila begins to rebuild. Left, the once-beautiful and modern queen city of the Orient, devastated by the Japs, starts the task of rebuilding with the help of the U. S. engineers. Upper center: This taxi is not much to look at, but it indicates Manila's reconversion. Upper right: A road repair gang is at work on Manila's Taft avenue, erasing some of the scars. Lower right: Bailey bridge.

Marooned Airmen Rescued by Helicopter



Eleven marooned ECAF airmen who were rescued by a U. S. coast guard helicopter in the first rescue of its kind, set up this SOS sign in the snow (upper left), made of green spruce boughs. Lower left: Cave in the snow in which the airmen lived for two weeks in the Labrador wilds. Snow is 10 feet deep. Right: Air view of the actual rescue.

Army and Navy Chiefs in V-E Broadcast



Among the high ranking army and navy officials who spoke on the world-wide victory broadcast celebrating V-E Day were, left to right: Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U. S. army; Adm. William G. Leahy, chief of staff to the President, and Adm. Ernest J. King, chief of naval operations.

New Air Hero



Marine pilot, 2nd Lt. William W. Eldridge Jr. of Hixon, Tenn., grins as he returns to his Okinawa airfield after blasting four Jap planes in as many minutes, when Jap suicide bombers attacked a U. S. ship.

Proudest Mom



Mrs. Ida Eisenhower, 83, mother of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, shown as she looked with pride at photo of her famous son, conqueror of German military might.



Washington, D. C.

STRATEGY AGAINST JAPAN

Back in 1937-38, Adm. William Leahy, now chief of staff to the White House, devised a strategy against Japan, which, if put into effect, might have prevented Pearl Harbor and even World War II.

Today, the old Leahy strategy is being dusted off, especially on Capitol Hill, as the best means of finishing the war with Japan. It would save thousands of American lives, its proponents claim, and would serve as an example of how wars can be won—or prevented—by naval blockade.

The proposals made by Admiral Leahy constitute one of the most important and unwritten chapters in the history of what happened shortly before the war began. Leahy, then chief of naval operations and one of the best strategists the navy has seen in years, saw all too clearly what was coming both in Europe and Asia. At that time, 1937, Japan had just begun her full-scale invasion of China, and it was Leahy's idea to make an example of Nippon which would show Hitler and Mussolini — then feeling their oats — that the United States meant business and would stand four-square behind the peace machinery of the world.

Therefore, he proposed to Roosevelt a naval blockade of Japan in cooperation with the British fleet, using the peace machinery of the League of Nations and the nine-power pact which guarantees the sovereignty of China.

Leahy argued that by keeping the U. S. Navy in the Philippines and the British fleet at Singapore, we could cut off all oil, scrap iron, copper, cotton and other war materials from Japan. Without these, he argued, the Japanese war machine would be powerless and would fold up in six months. Leahy figured that the United States would lose its gunboats on the Yangtze river, but that aside from this the main U. S. fleet would not have to fire a single shot.

British Start Blockade.

President Roosevelt agreed. So did the British. And in the late summer of 1937, the British actually detailed 6 battleships, 12 cruisers and 20 destroyers to leave British home waters for Singapore. Just at that moment, however, the axis capitals apparently got wind of what was happening, and Mussolini started his unofficial submarine campaign off the coast of Spain which detained the British fleet at Gibraltar.

The Panay Incident.

At any rate, the plan to blockade Japan, following the failure of the Brussels conference in October, 1937, was dropped. But Admiral Leahy revived it again a year later, when, in December, 1938, the Japs sank the U. S. Gunboat Panay and the British Gunboat Ladybird.

Leahy recognized this for what it was, a deliberate attempt by the Jap war lords to test out how much insult the United States would take, and to make Britain and the USA lose face with the Chinese. Accordingly he rushed to the state department and all one Sunday afternoon, December 13, 1938, one day after the sinking of the Panay, he urged Cordell Hull to seize this psychological moment to put the blockade of Japan into effect.

The British were also willing to cooperate. And, Leahy pointed out, in another year, war, inevitably breaking out in Europe, would tie up the British fleet and they could not possibly help us in the Pacific. Russia, he also pointed out, had 60 submarines at Vladivostok, ready to help us cut off all scrap iron, all oil, all cotton and copper from Japan. Without these, he argued, the Japanese war machine would be paralyzed.

Facing the floor of Hull's office with Leahy was Hugh Wilson, ambassador to Germany and one of the state department's foremost appeasers. He opposed Leahy at every turn, finally convinced cautious Cordell Hull that Leahy was too vigorous, that it was best to appease Japan.

Less than one year later, Hitler had invaded Poland, the British fleet was desperately needed to defend British home waters, and the fat was in the fire. From that point on there was no possible way the United States could blockade Japan — though many people have never understood why we went to the opposite extreme and increased our shipments of oil and scrap iron to Japan so that she laid in tremendous reserves before Pearl Harbor.

Japan Can Be Starved.

But beginning with V-E Day, the possibility of blockading Japan for the first time since 1939 was completely reversed. Since V-E Day, the British fleet is entirely free to operate in the Pacific. So are Russian submarines. So is the whole might of the U. S. Navy, now no longer needed to watch for submarines in the Caribbean or the Atlantic.

Today it is possible to throw up such a naval blockade around the main Jap islands, augmented by air patrols, that hardly a ton of raw materials could reach Jap factories.

It's Easy to Paint Or Stencil Roses

IF YOU would like to add real charm to any room try your hand at painting roses. With a guide for either stenciling or tracing, they are as easy to do as any other flower—just fill in the petals with lovely rose tones and the



leaves with soft greens, add any flourishes or shading that may appeal to you, and there you are.

The room shown here should give you a start toward your own rosy future. Graceful rose patterns are painted around the window frame and on the window shade, on the old rocker, the foot stool, the chest of drawers, the lamp base and shade and a tin tray. With this one flower theme an assortment of odds and ends may be brought into harmony.

NOTE—Pattern 200 gives seven different rose designs—large and small, borders, sprays and single flowers for every purpose. For stencils or tracing. May be used over and over. Complete directions and color guide included. To get Pattern 200, send 15 cents with name and address direct to:

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Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 200.
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Crude Rope Bridges

Bridges consisting of a single rope are still in use at points along the rivers of western China where only men and horses travel. To get over them, a man hooks his horse to the rope in an underslung harness and, clutching the rope with hands and feet, pulls himself and animal across, a few inches at a time.

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WNU-4 21-45

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, stinging or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer aching backache, headache, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling.

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