

Washington Digest

India's Army Force For Unifying Country

Common Language and Habits Tend to Break Down Former Prejudices; Troops Take Leadership in Communal Affairs.

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One heartening postwar picture arose out of the welter of hope, fear and expectation which held Washington in its grip through the news of the atomic bombs, the entrance of Russia into the war and then the exciting flash from Japan that kept us on tenter-hooks so long. When there seemed little to contemplate about but the lush growth of evil which had sprung from the planting of the dragon's teeth of war, I found, strangely enough, in the office of the representative of India in Washington the belief that the war would turn out to be, in one respect, a blessing to that perturbed country.

India has furnished an army of 2½ million men (the largest volunteer force in the world) in the prosecution of this war and that army has turned out to be "the greatest school of adult education" in the world. That's what the Indians proudly call it. True, soldiers in other armies have been "taught while they fought," but few have ever been able to add so much to the total knowledge of their nation.

I am told that after the last war, when an Indian village was found, especially in the Punjab, which was a little better run, with more progressive ideas and a more active social consciousness, it would also be discovered that its moving spirit was an ex-soldier—an Indian (Hindu or Moslem, Rajput or Sikh, no matter) who had brought home ideas on sanitation and hygiene, co-operation and understanding, absorbed during his period of service at home or abroad. But now the potentialities of this military missionaryry are immensely greater. Not merely because the Indian army is so much bigger, but because already it has served as a great melting pot, breaking down ancient prejudices and taboos which heretofore have made Indian unity impossible.

General's Spirit Hopeful Sign

If tall, lean and eager General Cariappa, with whom I talked at length when he was here on a mission connected with the founding of a new military academy in India, is typical, the army is indeed a force. His enthusiasm, his optimism and his energy are hopeful signs in themselves. I enjoyed that interview, seated in the office of the Agent General for India, where I heard his earnest man speak with an apparent sincerity and conviction which could not help but impress anyone who heard him.

General Cariappa was one of the first Indian cadets to be commissioned in the Indian army in 1920. As a young man he had not yet attained his majority. He has been in the army ever since and was the first Indian officer to command a battalion. He raised a machine-gun outfit himself and as lieutenant-colonel led his men through the bitter days of the Burma campaign. Now he is a general staff officer, one of India's four brigadiers, and also a member of the army reorganization committee. It was in the latter capacity that he has just completed a tour of inspection of the British military schools at Woolwich and Sandhurst, then the Canadian school at Kingston, and finally West Point and some of our specialist schools. He hopes to take acceptable features of all these schools and combine them in the new Indian Military Academy, the site of which has not yet been determined but the plans for which are well under way. The committee on reorganization also hopes to revise Indian preliminary education so that it will develop leadership.

When I saw General Cariappa he was politely but none the less deeply pained over some of the reports in the American press which belittled India's participation in the war. He explained (which we in Washington knew) that there were two Indian soldiers to every one British soldier in the Burma fighting.

General Cariappa is working to prepare a completely independent Indian army. It is also, I dare to suggest, for an independent India. As a soldier, the general refused to discuss politics, but he said that naturally every loyal Indian looks forward to the independence of his

country — "Something," he said, "which every one of our soldiers who has been fighting for the ideals of the United Nations expects." Like his fellow-countrymen and the British officers with whom I have talked, General Cariappa is proud of the seeds of unity which have been sown in the army.

In the first place, the army speaks and also reads and writes one language. Most of the soldiers when they enlist are of the peasant class and are illiterate. When their training commences they are immediately taught to read and write in Roman Urdu, which is a simplified Hindustani written with English (Roman) letters. Aside from the value of eradicating illiteracy, the knowledge and use of a common language removes one of the chief obstacles to harmony and understanding among the people. (There are 12 principal languages and 100 dialects spoken in India.) Many prejudices go when the language barrier is broken down. When the war is over at least 2½ million Indians will have the bond of a common tongue.

But more than that, they will have lived together, eaten together, in the field at least, lived in close companionship in barracks and developed teamwork and tolerance. There has been some suggestion that Basic English be made the official language of the army in India, and while, for the present, Hindustani appears more practical, the former has been taught on a large scale.

General Cariappa has a sense of humor and a perfect command of English (basic, colloquial and classic) in which to express it. (He went to school in England as a boy.) He told me the following story to illustrate the ramifications of the language problem in the Indian army:

A young British officer remarked to his native sergeant that it was really remarkable that in his comparatively small unit of only 300 men, six different languages were spoken.

"Oh, more than that, sir," the sergeant answered. "Nine different languages are spoken here. There are the six provincial languages. Then there is English, which you and I speak. Then there is Hindustani, which we all must speak. Then there is YOUR Hindustani."

Army With a Language Problem

It is true that most of the Indian army has remained within the continental limits of the country, but that is not really strange, General Cariappa explained, since it takes 18 men "in the tail" as he put it, to keep one fighting man going. Many foreigners, seeing so many uniforms in India, received the impression that the whole army was "sitting down." These men, of course, are not combat troops held back for political or other reasons, the general said, but are largely the work troops, the great service of supply required to keep the armies in the field going.

The general claims that Indian soldiers are second to none as fighting men. The greater proportion of them are Madrashi, not at all the traditional fighting tribes who in the past have constituted what was called the "martial race." That term, long outmoded, has long since been dropped. The excuse for its use disappeared much earlier.

In the past there may have been some basis for this concept. Fighting begets fighters. As the British conquest of India moved slowly northward it left peace behind it, but ignited war ahead of it. So the northerners were the last whose vocation, or at least avocation, was mortal combat. The southerners returned to the gentler arts. But to return to the general. He quoted that truism which all military men know is sound: "There are no bad soldiers. There are only bad officers."

Let me end this column as I began it. If General Cariappa is typical of India's officers, there is hope, not only for a powerful Indian army, which I, with the rest of you, pray India will never need, but hope that here among these 2½ million men who have found a common tongue and a common purpose has been planted the leaven of tolerance that may bring about the unity of a free India.

Expected Back With MacArthur



Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, then a major general, is pictured with General MacArthur, as they appeared in the Philippines shortly before the Jap invasion. Wainwright, who led the forlorn hope on Corregidor, was captured by Nipponese and is expected to rejoin General MacArthur, to directly issue all orders to the Japanese officials.

Government Prepares Postwar



Heads of the different government departments working on cuts in wartime restrictions. Left to right: J. A. Krug, War Production board; Chester Bowles, Office of Price Administration; Frank L. McNamee, War Manpower commission; William H. Davis, director of economic stabilization; and John Snyder, director of war mobilization and reconversion. The purpose is to remove all government restrictions and rationing as soon as possible.

Trumans Help Celebrate Peace



Following his announcement that Japs had met peace terms, President Harry S. Truman, accompanied by Mrs. Truman, appeared on the steps of the White House to greet the crowds gathered for the official announcement. The President announced to the crowd that he had declared a two-day holiday for all government employees—which did not include his staff.

Symbol of Complete Victory



Symbol of conquest over the Japanese, in the eyes of every navy man, is the dream picture of Admiral Nalsey riding the emperor's white horse through the streets of Tokyo. Sailors at naval frontier base, Tompkinsville, N. Y., react to Jap surrender news in fashion shown in photo, including a mounted white horse and parade.

Co-Operative Farm



Employees of Goldwaters department store in Phoenix, Ariz., during their spare time operate a 21-acre farm which furnishes them with fruits, vegetable, poultry and dairy products. They are paid in produce from the farm. More than 160 employees work the farm.

Petain Found Guilty



Aged Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, shown in court when he was convicted of treason charges against France. The sentence called for death, with the recommendation by the jury that the sentence not be carried out because of his age.

Reconverted Senator



"Buddy" Lewis, slugger outfielder of the Washington Senators, who spent three years in the army, is shown back in Washington uniform after his discharge from the army. Getting into baseball shape, he will aid Senators in drive for top honors.

Receives Jap's Reply



Max Grassli, left, Swiss chauffeur d'affaires, shown when he delivered to James F. Byrnes, U. S. secretary of state, the Japanese reply to unconditional surrender.



EMPEROR ONCE DEMOCRATIC

Twenty-three years ago, this writer, visiting in Japan, got considerable first-hand information about the emperor from a young Japanese Quaker, Renzo Sawada, who had been picked to accompany Hirohito, then crown prince, on a trip to see the western world.

Why Sawada, educated in a Quaker school in Tokyo, was chosen to accompany the young prince on this history-making trip, I do not know, except that the Imperial council of education wanted a commoner of Hirohito's age who spoke English and French to travel with the future emperor.

Never before had a ruler of Japan left its shores. In the past scarcely was the emperor even seen by his subjects. Some idea of his isolation can be gained from the fact that the word "mika" means "awful"; the word "do" means "place"; and the name "Mikado" means "awful-place."

In the old days, priests came to worship at the "awful place," but they never saw the emperor whose other name even today is "Tenno," meaning "son of Heaven." The emperor is synonymous with the sun and from this comes the Japanese flag, with 16 spreading rays symbolic of the rising sun and the emperor.

In those days, the Mikado was the theoretical owner of all the land and all the people and their possessions. He was their God and protector. His lance and shield came from Ama, "the ancestral region." Thus arose the cult of Shintoism which actually means "rule of the superiors" or "way of the Gods." Even the word for government in Japan, "matsurigo" means "shrine visiting" or "religion."

Modernizing the Emperor. Thus during most of Japanese history; in fact, up until just after the arrival of Commander Perry in 1852, the Mikado was an ethereal spiritual being, not a ruler; and it came as a definite shock to many Japanese that their emperor-to-be should sail off to England and France to absorb western culture.

In fact, some of the more intense patriots actually threw themselves on the railroad tracks in front of the train carrying Hirohito to Yokohama in protest against the departure.

Naturally Hirohito may have changed a lot during the 25 years since his trip. Naturally, also my friend Sawada was prejudiced in his favor. However, the story of that voyage was one of a young man anxious to mingle with his fellowmen, astound the emperor-worshippers by wrestling on the deck with his aides, get a bloody nose, and dance democratically with the servants of the Duke of Atholl in the same "barbaric" Scotland, which, according to Shinto priests, is made from the mud and seafoam left over after creation of the "heavenly isles" — Japan.

Hirohito even managed to deliver a public speech to the lord mayor of London; and no emperor in all the history of Japan had ever delivered a public speech before. In all Japanese history, furthermore, no emperor had purchased an article of any shape, size or form. In Paris, however, Hirohito insisted on going alone and buying a necktie, and later a pearl for his mother.

Hirohito Goes Underground. His greatest ambition, however, was to ride on the Paris subway or "metro." Before leaving Tokyo, Hirohito's staff had been strictly forbidden to let the heir to the throne ride on any subway; but despite this, the crown prince bolted most of his staff and ventured underground. He insisted on buying the tickets himself and handed them to the fat lady guarding the gate.

But he handed them to her in a bunch; instead of spreading them out fan shape, so that she could not punch them quickly. All of which brought forth a storm of abuse in metro French, heaped on the head of the future ruler of Japan.

CAPITAL CHAFF

¶ The 1946 congressional elections probably will see the bitterest fight and the most money spent in years. Both sides are gearing for a showdown, partly as a result of the British elections. Conservatives are saying: "It can't happen here."

¶ Truman was kept informed regarding all these incidents... tip-off that Japan was weakening came after Russia declared war, and the Japs did not declare war in return.

¶ Congressman John J. O'Connor, victim of the Roosevelt purge and who has never forgotten it, is among those backstaging the Christian front campaign against Gen. William O'Dwyer. Another instigator is Father Edward Curran... O'Dwyer fought the Christian front when he was Brooklyn prosecutor. ¶ The army is due to cutback on almost everything except hospitals. Several new ones will be built including a \$20,000,000 army hospital in Puerto Rico by the L. W. Robert firm of Atlanta. He was secretary of the Democratic national committee.

Space-Saver Racks For Closet Doors

WHY wish for more and bigger closets if the ones you have are not organized so that all the space is used? Handy racks on the door add readily accessible space for things used every day leaving inside shelves for storage. The



racks shown here are carefully planned to hold the things you use the most, yet they are less than three inches deep.

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NOTE: Pattern 283 gives actual-size cutting guides for all parts of both of the racks shown here. Illustrated directions for assembling and a list of all materials required are included. To get pattern 282, send 15c with name and address to:

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BARBS... by Baukhage

Pravda (Russian newspaper) reminds us Stalin called Japan an aggressor in 1936. Large bodies, like the efficient Red army, move slowly.

Did you hear that one on the air the other day? Wife (in the year 1960)—Why are you so late dear? Husband—I had to go round the world three times to find a parking place.

So many Dutch citizens were arrested by the Germans that it is expected that all questionnaires in that country hereafter will ask: (1) Were you ever in jail? (2) If not, state why.

They say we'll be getting roasted eggs out of slot machines before long. It sounds like a shell game to me.