

# WAR ON ALL FRONTS

A SERIES OF SPECIAL ARTICLES BY THE LEADING WAR CORRESPONDENTS

## Japan's Resources

By Max Hill

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with The American Magazine.)

We hear a lot about Hitler's Fortress of Europe, but seldom about Japan's larger, and vastly richer, Fortress of Asia. Yet, if you could shuffle the lands of the earth around as you do pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, you would find that Hitler's empire could be tucked away in far less than half of the area that Japan now rules.

Emperor Hirohito's domain is larger than continental United States, and he has more than he can use of many vital war materials which are so scarce here that our scientists are on day and night shifts trying to find practical substitutes. It is the richest natural area in the world, and its resources transformed Japan overnight from a poor relation among the world powers into an empire that spreads from the cold of the northern Pacific to the tropical heat of the Indian ocean below the equator. And a determined enemy is welding this conquered region into a war machine that, given time, will dwarf the military might of the other end of the Axis at its command.

The areas which Japan either captured or just walked into and took over, amount to some 3,100,000 square miles and contain fabulous quantities of war materials. All of it was taken in the first few months of the war, and since that time we have been able to recapture not much more than 20,000 square miles.

Germany does have one important advantage over her Pacific ally: She is looting a continent which already was industrial; Japan's conquests, for the most part, were in an area predominantly agricultural and primitive. Japan must fight a war steadily growing more serious for her, and at the same time build the war plants to handle the plenty that is there for the taking. She is somewhat like the burglar trying to tote off more than he can carry.

Plenty of Oil. As to resources, let's take oil first, as one of Japan's most necessary raw materials. Before the war, Japan stored up millions of gallons of the oil she bought from us and from the Netherlands East Indies. Then she struck, and you may be sure she didn't start out empty-handed. Tokyo's radio boasts that she now has approximately 70 per cent of the Indies oil wells back in production.

The Indies produce less than one twenty-fifth of the oil flowing from American wells, about 2,500,000,000 gallons each year. But Burma has oil wells, too, and I am told by sources I know are reliable that the Japanese program for this year is to store 42,000,000 gallons of oil, just put it away for the future. Even so, they are at work at home, taking 3,500,000 barrels of oil each year from the Manchukuo shale fields, extracting oil from coal, experimenting with oil from sardines for glycerine, and with oil from soya beans, boiling pine-tree stumps for another type of oil, and—most important of all—building synthetic oil plants.

The synthetic plants, which are scattered throughout the empire, are the big question mark in Japan's oil production. Some of them use German patents; others a process invented by the Japanese themselves. We have never been able to locate all of them or find out how much they are producing.

Rubber, Tin and Quinine. Oil is only the beginning of the riches of the Indies. This great region also produces one-third of the world's natural rubber; one-fifth of the tin; 90 per cent of the quinine, so valuable in tropical fighting; and extensive deposits of nickel, bauxite (from which aluminum is made), manganese, gold, and silver.

But Japan can put all of these riches in a side pocket and forget them, with the exception of the nickel on the island of Celebes, and look with greedy eyes on the rest of the conquered area.

Including the Indies, this empire produces 98.8 per cent of the world's natural rubber and 80 per cent of the world's tin. Two million tons of ore high in iron content are dug out of the Malaya mines each year, and the Japanese are now supposed to be busy on a plant to smelt this ore near Singapore.

We read frequently of the difficulties Japan has with her shipping, but you never hear any mention of the American tonnage it takes to bring tin from Bolivia, halfway down the west coast of South America, and inland, a much longer haul than the Japanese have.

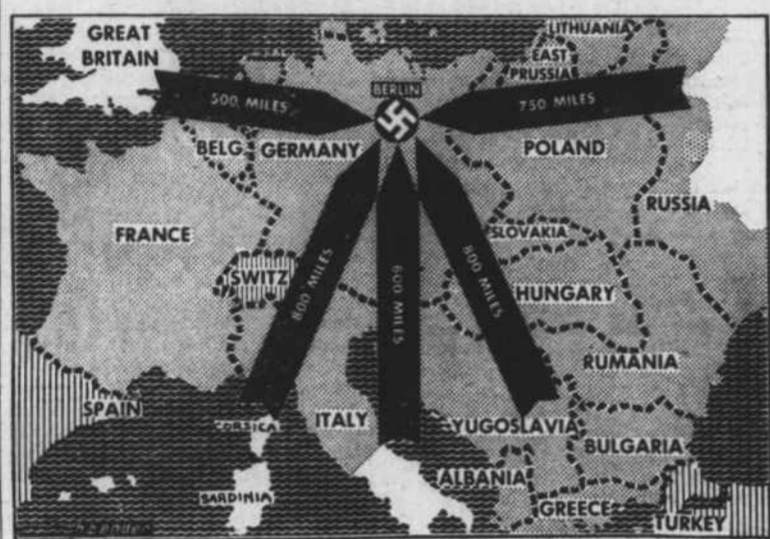
The enemy has 90 per cent of the world's tin; we have about 15 per cent, which is why Bolivia produces, and by agreement we have to split most of that with England. Do you wonder, now, at the almost desperate pleas of the government that we have our used tin cans?

## Military Chiefs Confer in S. Pacific



A great deal of military authority was represented in this post in the South Pacific as Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. chief of staff, visited Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Left to right are: Lieut. Gen. George C. Kenney, Maj. Gen. S. J. Chamberlain (holding coat), Lieut. Gen. Walter Kreuger, Marshall, and MacArthur.

## 1944 Death Trap Set for Nazis



Many sided trap which is expected to smash the German military machine and culminate with an Allied march on Berlin. From every direction men and planes will swarm toward this city which is already said to be a smoldering ruin. From Russia, the Balkans, Corsica, Italy, and from England will come the final crushing blows.

## Tuning Up for New Britain Attack



Maj. Gen. William Rupertus, U. S. M. C., who commanded the marine units that attacked the twin Japanese airfields behind Cape Gloucester, New Britain, is shown (left) coaching a Leatherneck gun crew during preparations for that action. Soon after this attack Marines were reported to be advancing in the face of stubborn enemy resistance.

## Assorted Cutlery for Combat Troops



Servicemen stationed in the South Pacific display assorted cutlery used in jungle warfare peculiar to that theater. This assortment ranges from spring-blade penknives to machetes. The men are Pvt. John D. McAniff, Coastguardsman Charles A. Kiernan, Coastguardsman Charles G. Allen and Pvt. William E. Verace.

## Record Catch



Wallace McMillan of Winnipeg, Manitoba, president of the Tye club of British Columbia, poses with the monster salmon he caught recently. It is 53 inches long, with a girth of 30 inches, and weighs 60 1/2 pounds. This is a record catch.

## New Combat Shoe



After months of tests during combat conditions the quartermaster corps has developed a new combat boot which is expected to replace the leggings worn by ground forces and paratroopers' boots. Private Paul L. Gable tries on the new shoe. Old style is at left.

## She Cooks Too



Ellen Laura North, 18, Hollydale, Calif., who was selected queen of the Great Western rodeo by a board of cattlemen. She has won many riding cups and ribbons. She also plays the accordion and is reported to be a good cook.

## Waterpower Damage



This picture, taken on the ocean front at Redondo Beach, Calif., shows how tides and pounding waves have turned the concrete walkway into a series of broken blocks.

## Who's News This Week

By Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—For this new year of pell-mell war traffic the Interstate Commerce commission has elected to its chairmanship William J. Patterson, who

**Took Railroad** son, who knows the nation's transportation system and its problems in war or peace from the ground up. He began studying them nearly half a century ago as a call boy.

Patterson became an ICC member in 1939, but he has been on its payroll for 30 years. He was hired as an inspector of appliances in 1914 when there was a considerable stir about safety. The job expanded until a score of years later it turned into the assistant directorship of the commission's bureau of safety. Next Patterson went onto the mechanical advisory committee of the federal coordinator of transportation. Finally membership on the commission itself came from President Roosevelt.

Patterson made his first connection with a railroad in Neenah, Wis. He was born there, where the Fox Indians used to hunt and do a lot of fighting, only seven years after the town was founded. A little while as a call boy made him want a better job. Correspondence courses were new then, and well recommended for kids who couldn't get other schooling, so he studied air brake and train operation by mail. That started him up the railroad ladder and finally he became a conductor. At the peak of his rise he married, fathered a son, a daughter. Later he switched to the ICC. He is 63 now.

HITLER'S legions fall back and the little kings whose little countries lie just beyond the smoke of battle turn more boldly toward Hitler's enemies.

**Gen. Royce Talks** of Oil, Transport Rights, Weather

Hitler's enemies. Maj. Gen. Ralph Royce and his Allied military commission sit down to 10 sheep served on heaped up rice by shrewd warwise Ibn Saud, master of the best of Arabia. The talk, after chins are wiped, is of oil and transport privileges. But once, at least, the general certainly asked about the weather. An airplane pilot who has flown his own ships more than a million miles, he is always a little worried about wind and clouds and rain.

Royce is American commander in the Middle East, big, wide-jawed, with his military cap usually cocked at a Beattie angle. He gets on with kings. A while back Egypt's Farouk piloted him on an aerial sightseeing trip, though Royce could have piloted Farouk even more skillfully. He was one of the first 30 army officers to qualify as fliers and in the last war led a squadron of fighting planes in France.

In this war he began by fighting the Japs in the Philippines and won a DSC and the DFC there to add to the Croix de Guerre he earned a quarter of a century ago. Convinced that Germany can be beaten from the air, he has commanded in the Middle East since September. Like most of the army's top men he went to West Point.

A THIN, tireless Englishman helps make the fliers of the Eighth air force safer than Milton's "helmed cherubims" seen

**Of a Long Line of Tailors, This Son Makes Steel Vests**

In glittering ranks with wings displayed. He covers more than the Americans' heads with steel. They fly cap-a-pie. Well, nearly! If they aren't armed from head to foot they wear, besides a helmet, an armored vest. And it turned blows like Lancelot's shield. This war makes less and less sense. It uses every invention of history's most mechanized age, but the best protection for its champions is copied from the days of old when knights were bold.

A dozen years ago Leonard Barratt of the classic Wilkinson Sword company tinkered up an armored vest. Vests came easy to him. His father, grand and great grandfathers were tailors. Some were sold, in the Battle of Britain, to wives and sweethearts wanting extra protection for their airmen. Nearly two years ago Brig. Gen. Malcolm Grow, Eighth air force surgeon, heard of the dandy device. Scotland Yard helped him run down the maker and shortly Barratt was working until all hours.

The latest vests include a thigh-protector. Their flexibility is the result of overlapping plates, one, two and three ply. One ply stops light flak. Three ply stops even revolver bullets close up. Each small plate is sewn into an individual pocket on the canvas back. The whole yields to every blow, then readjusts itself as links adjust themselves in a chain.

Helmets are a development later than the vests—steel slats over leather modeled on a block to fit any need. They close down over the eyebrows, around the ears.



## THE FUERHER AND AMERICAN MOVIES

Adolf Hitler, it develops, is a rabid movie fan and especially likes to get American films for some strange reason, and have them run off for him at Berchtesgaden. When the Drottningholm, prisoner ship, was returning from Scotland, the Nazis confiscated a batch of them for the Fuehrer. They included Disney's "Bambi," Betty Grable in "Coney Island" and the films "Crash Dive" and "Cairo."

He had better be careful how far he goes. If he goes in for our double-features he will get that breakdown, after all.

Of course it is just possible that Hitler doesn't really like American films. He may merely take them to Berchtesgaden so he can spend an evening boozing.

Still, Adolf is the type who would be a movie fanatic. He likes dark-brown, bad air, blatant credit lines, Donald Duck, Popeye, the Dracula sort of thing and a chance to argue with ushers.

## Scene in the Chancellery.

Adolf (to Goering)—Well, did we seize any American films this week?

Goering—Fuehrer, our forces to the north won another tremendous victory. They seized "I Dood It," "Lassie Comes Home" and "The Gang's All Here." On the west, we took "Buffalo Bill," "Looney Toons" and "Wintertime."

Adolf (shuddering)—Ach, give 'em back that last one! It gives me the creeps. Any word from Rommel?

Goering—He almost got "Always a Bridesmaid" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls" but had to retreat at the last moment.

Adolf—How is Kesseling doing? Goering—I have a wire from him that he has brought up reserves and is within ten miles of a new Carmen Miranda vehicle.

Adolf—Anything new on the Russian front?

Goering—The situation there is pretty clouded.

Adolf—I remember when everything on that front was in technical.

Goering—There are reports that in the Minsk sector we are threatening "Mission to Moscow" and "North Star."

Adolf (fiercely)—They don't even exist any more. The Warner Brothers have been exterminated, not to rise again for a thousand years.

Goering—Here's a message from our U-boats. Adolf—Yes, yes, what is it? Goering—They have torpedoed "Yankee Doodle," "Victory Through Air Power" and "Salute to the Marines."

The radio program of the year is the one just put on the air by Variety, the show-world magazine. What an idea! It takes outstanding performances of the week in the amusement business and puts on a Sunday night program. To us the best thing about it is that it introduces new talent, picking up able entertainers who haven't had the breaks and sweeping them into national fame overnight.

## Prepared

Although my husband's gone to war, He's just as safe now as before. He had some first-rate inside tips To make fast work of nasty "Nips." He's just as safe as he can be, FOR HE'S LEARNED SELF-DEFENSE FROM ME!

Romayn Allen

A new weather forecaster has been named for New York and promises an improvement in general conditions.

Ima Dodo went to see "Sahara" last night and says she coughed all day from the sand in her nose and throat.

Baseball is to get a livelier ball next season. One thing the Teheran and Cairo conferees have just realized is that more home runs, say what you may, are one of the main essentials to a bright new world.

Elmer Twitchell hears that the revolt in Bolivia was caused by the fact that President Penaranda forgot to send a Christmas card to Major Villarroel.

What this country needs is a cigar maker with a good five-cent conscience.

## Can You Remember—

Away back when you could dispose of many Christmas problems by merely going to the bank and saying: "Ten \$5 gold pieces, please"?

Away back in prohibition days when prices were reasonable? And when you said, "Oh, I'm not asking for liquor back, I'd be satisfied with light wines and beers"?

When you could say, "I'll take a cigar this time" and get it?

## Uncle Phil Says:

Envy no man, for you know not his weaknesses and shortcomings.

Those good old days were the days we did not have much—and didn't want much.

Unlike a woman, no man will stand pain because of his clothing, but he will stand discomfort.

Viewing some of the loud pajamas received as Christmas presents, we predict insomnia is in for an increase.

Golf does decrease a man's weight—but it also increases his conceit.



## Acid Indigestion

Relieved in 5 minutes or double money back. When excess stomach acid causes painful, self-poisoning gas, sour stomach and heartburn, doctors usually prescribe the fastest-acting medicine known for symptomatic relief—medicines like those in **LYDIA'S TABLETS**. No inactive, dull-acting ingredients. Only 25¢. Buy 10 for \$2.50. Caution: Use only as directed. Penetro Nose Drops

## YOU WOMEN WHO SUFFER FROM HOT FLASHES

If you suffer from hot flashes, weak, nervous, cranky feelings, are a bit blue at times—due to the functional "middle-age" 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 distress. It helps nature! Also a fine stomachic tonic. Follow label directions. **LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND**

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## SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

The peak of tropical American rubber production, including guayule, was in 1912, when about 62,000 tons were produced in all countries. In 1940 the world's production of rubber was 1,389,695 tons, more than came out of the Amazon Valley in all the years from 1837 to 1939 inclusive.

By the use of bud-grafted trees, the yield of rubber on Far East plantations in some cases has been increased from 500 to 1,500 pounds per acre a year.

One type of four-motored bomber requires more than 2,000 pounds of rubber; pursuit planes require over 100 pounds each.

## In war or peace

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