



Washington, D. C.

BOMBING NIPS WITH B-29s

The plan of continuously bombing Japan from Saipan promises to be one of the most important strategies of the war. But like all difficult innovations, it already has evolved some serious kinks which must be ironed out.

They include: crew fatigue, maintenance problems, weather conditions and home front production of planes to replace those lost in action. Upon these factors depend the frequency with which we can keep up the rain of bombs on Japan.

The bombing of Japan from Saipan represents a gruelling experience for the crews involved, and allowances must be made to provide necessary rest periods. If any of the crews participating in the Thanksgiving Day raid tried it again three days later, it would be only natural to expect that their operational ability would be proved reduced because of the wearing effect of the earlier 3,000-mile flight.

It has also been found that information on weather over Japan is still not entirely accurate.

But reconnaissance photos taken after the first two raids did show severe damage to a major aircraft plant outside of Tokyo, also effective shattering of several water front areas which are jam-packed with Tokyo traffic.

Other Obstacles to Raids.

Officials have also learned that the B-29 still has certain defects which may require modification in future production. These primarily concern the safety of air crews and should be remedied before bombing of Japan can be carried out on a day-to-day basis.

Air corps officials still reiterate that the air phase of the war against Japan is nearing its climax, but admit that several more months will pass before the air drive can be really stepped up to its peak.

One major hope is that General MacArthur's forces will be able to secure several bases in the Philippines so that the B-29s can operate from there, thus smashing at the south of Japan almost at will. Because of the B-29s' vast size, it is almost impossible to conceal them under camouflage, with the result that Japanese planes still operating from scores of fields in the Philippines could bomb B-29s at will if they were based on Leyte now.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN

Now that Stalin has put the Japanese on notice for war, calling them an aggressor nation, another chapter regarding Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Tokyo can be told.

After dropping its bomb load on Tokyo, one of the planes developed a leak in its gas line. Aware that he could not make friendly Chinese territory, the pilot set his course for Soviet Siberia, figuring he might barely be able to reach dry land. Internment, he figured, was better than execution. When the fuel gave out, he had no idea where he was, but landed on the best flat stretch he could find.

As the crew of the plane piled out, a column of tanks appeared over a nearby hill. The airmen climbed back into their plane and prepared to make a fight for it, but finally saw the Soviet red star on the leading tank and got out of the plane again.

The pilot walked forward to talk with the Soviet major who jumped out of the leading tank. Using English, gestures, and one or two words of Russian, the pilot tried to explain how he happened to be there.

Finally, the Russian officer stopped him. In fairly good English, he said: "Yes, we know all about the bombing of Tokyo. And we knew one plane was in trouble and might be heading this way. We came out to see if we could find you."

The bomber crew started to climb into the tanks when suddenly another column of tanks appeared from the opposite direction. A Jap officer came running toward the Russians, shouting, "This is Japanese territory. We demand the surrender of the Americans."

The Russian major immediately dug out his maps, insisting he was on Soviet soil. The argument raged in German for several minutes, until finally the Jap angrily stalked off, ordering his tanks to fire. This was answered by a volley from the Russian tanks, both aiming at the sky. The Russian tanks then drove on, leaving the airplane behind.

They had been going at a fast clip for about half an hour, when the Russian major turned to the American pilot and said:

"I now welcome you to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." The border had just been crossed.

CAPITAL CHAFF

• Mrs. Melvyn Douglas will soon be in congress, elected from California.
• The railway brotherhoods, whose 480,000 members are affiliated with neither the AFL nor the CIO, are burned up over the appointment of Thomas Cashen of the AFL switchmen's union to the War Mobilization and Reconversion board's labor panel. Although Cashen's AFL union is in the transportation field, the brotherhoods feel that one of their own members should have been appointed to the labor panel.

Air Force Triplets and Twins



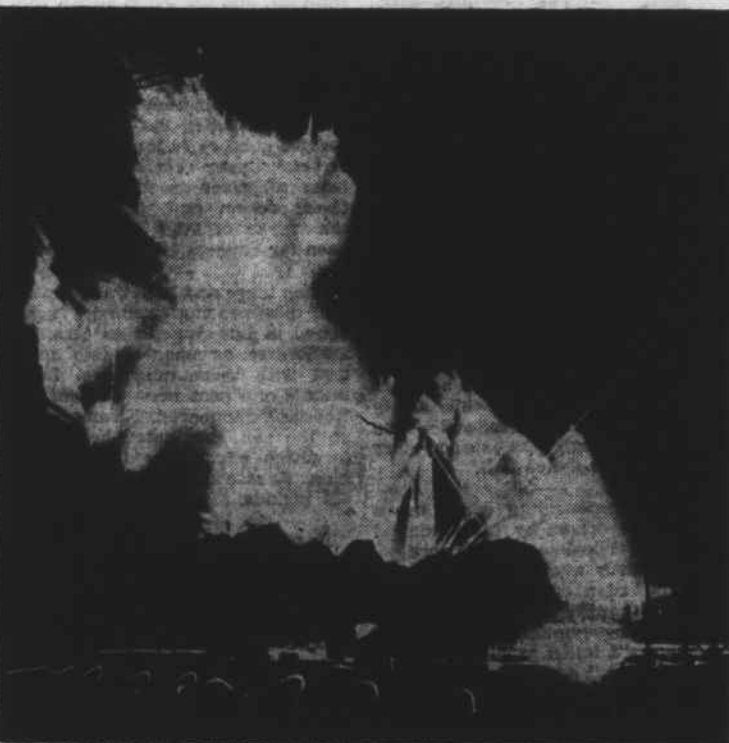
Upper photograph shows the triplet sons of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Aldinger, Springfield, N. Y. Henry L., Robert J., and William F. Aldinger have flown a total of 70 trips since May. Right, Boyd and Loyd Bartley, identical twins of Keystone, Okla., who were members of a B-24 bomber crew. Loyd wears a Purple Heart medal.

Cow Shares Home With Refugees



Refugee French mother, who fled from the village of Corcieux with other families, when retreating Germans razed the town, is shown with her baby in the stall of a barn, while the occupant, a cow, looks on. Most of the refugees were forced to do without even the shelter of an occupied barn.

Peleliu's 'Great White Way'



This scene is typical of night life on Peleliu, in the vicinity of the Second marine air wing encampment. The streaks across the foreground are the headlights of jeeps and trucks. The curving line is a marine swinging a flashlight. The skies are lit up with tracer bullets and star shells during attack on Jap positions.

Ship's Hatch Becomes a Nursery



Aboard a coast guard manned troop transport, a ship's hatch serves as a nursery for this healthy group of New Zealand-American war babies, with their mothers, all natives of New Zealand. They are on their way to a new home in the United States. Crewmen rigged the lines for the inevitable washing and made the hatch "comfy."

Downs 12 1/2 Planes



Maj. William J. Novde of Crookston, Minn., destroyed 12 1/2 enemy planes in one day, when he led his fighter squadron into the fire of Nazi aircraft seeking to break up the American daylight raid on Berlin.

Vet Earns License



Wearing a hook, instead of the hand he lost in the service of his country, Marine Pfc. C. W. Pernot of Wilmington, Del., is shown behind the steering wheel of a car in which he qualified for driver's license in Pennsylvania. Ten other amputation vets qualified.

General Wins Pals



Chinese grade school children, who consider Maj. Gen. C. L. Chen, U. S. army 14th air force, their hero and their pal, presented him with a bundle of Christmas greeting cards, which they had made in school for their friend.

Knife Saved Life



Pvt. Duane Kinman, 19, of Walla Walla, Wash., operated with a pocket knife to save a pal's life on the battlefield. He has been promised a medical training.

Was Star of Bethlehem A Natural Phenomenon? Astronomers Disagree

Four astronomical hypotheses have evolved from the consideration of the Star of Bethlehem as a natural phenomenon—specifically the possibilities of its having been a meteor, a comet, a new star, or the conjunction of two or more planets.

A meteor is a very transient and local phenomenon. Under no circumstances could a meteor be visible for more than a few seconds and one large enough to attract the attention of ordinary observers would have had its place of impact commemorated.

Tradition credits Hipparchus with having noted, in 134 B. C., a brilliant new star where previously no

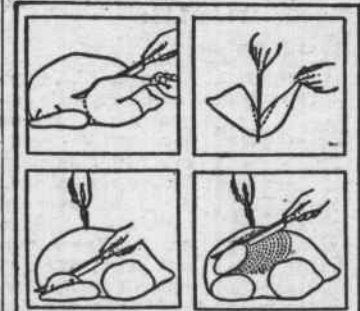


star had been: and since Tycho Brahe discovered his famous nova in 1572, many new stars have been tentatively identified as the Star of Bethlehem.

Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, and Venus are planets visible to the naked eye. Computation has figured that Jupiter, Mars and Saturn were in conjunction in the year 7 to 6 B. C., as such a phenomenon occurs about every 800 years; it is impossible to include Venus and still conform to the biblical account which places the Star in the East since Venus is most conspicuous in the western horizon.

Modern astronomers do not attach much weight to the foregoing hypotheses. Such phenomena would occur too far from the earth to serve as a local guide and, seen in the same direction from any point on the earth's surface, would not stand—as the biblical Star of Bethlehem.

Tips on Carving



Finding the joints without hacking up the bird is the hallmark of a skillful poultry carver. He can stand or sit to his task, whichever is more comfortable. Poultry specialists of the U. S. department of agriculture offer these tips:

Have the platter set on the table with the legs of the roast turkey or chicken pointing either straight toward you or toward your carving hand. A wedge of bread or apple under each side of the bird will steady it for carving. Make a clean cut between the body and the leg and give a slight twist on the end of the drumstick. If the bird is cooked just right, the leg will then separate easily from the body so you can see the joint and cut through it to the outside. The leg of a duck or goose is more difficult to joint than the leg of a chicken, turkey or guinea. A goose's leg leaves intact the tibit near the backbone called the "oyster." Separate the drumstick and upper joint, and slice the leg meat of a large bird.

Start the wing out at a spot above the point where the wing seems to join the body. Cut at an angle of about 45 degrees to hit the joint. The wing is sometimes not entirely separated from the carcass but dropped down so as to leave the breast free for slicing.

Slice the breast meat of turkeys, chickens and guinea parallel to the outside surface, along the grain of the meat. Cut the breast meat of ducks and geese across the grain of the meat at right angles to the ridge bone, after running the blade of the knife under the flesh to loosen it.

Snapdragon Game

Snapdragon, still played in a modified form in England and America, was a favorite Christmas game in England more than 200 years ago.

The original game called for a quantity of raisins to be deposited in a large bowl or dish. Brandy or some other spirit was poured over the fruit and ignited. The bystanders then endeavored to grasp a raisin, by plunging their hands through the flames. A carol called "The Song of Snapdragon" accompanied the game.

South Americans Celebrate Feast in Picturesque Way

The children of Latin America learn about Santa Claus only through the radio programs from North America. Yet Christmas for them is not lacking in gaiety and not lacking in gifts.

But the beneficent visitor, instead of being the jolly, rotund Kris Kringle, is "El Nino Dios—the Christ Child—assisted by Los Reyes Magos—the Magi Kings.

While the children of North America are hanging up their stockings on Christmas eve, their neighbors below the Rio Grande are setting out carefully made little beds of grass or straw, which El Nino Dios will fill with toys and candy during the night. This is not universal, however. In some countries the night for gifts is January 5, for that is the night Los Reyes Magos ride swiftly from house to house with camels laden with good things for good little chiquillos.

The yule season in Mexico and many other Hispanic countries generally begins on December 15 and continues to January 6, when presents are exchanged in token of the gifts brought to the Christ Child by the Three Wise Men.

In fact, there is sometimes a colorful addition of bullfights, rodeos and folk dances.

Symbolizing the Nativity.

As the climax of this period, (December 15 to January 6) there are the traditional Nacimiento and Posadas. Nacimiento means "birth," and in the intimacy of every home a space is made ready for the colorful little display which symbolizes the Nativity. Every detail of the Palestinian countryside is faithfully de-



There will be no window decoration shortage.

There will be no window decoration shortage. A tiny replica of the stable at Bethlehem is set up, and surrounded with miniature cows and other animals.

At some time between December 15 and New Year's day, every Mexican family holds a Posada. Members of the family and their friends gather in the patio and sing Villancicos, or old Spanish Christmas carols, and march around the patio in procession, to commemorate the journey of the Three Wise Men to Bethlehem.

Though the postmen of Latin America are not so heavily burdened as they are here, the greeting on everyone's lips is the same as ours—"Felices Pascuas y Buen Ano Nuevo!"

First Yule Card Printed in 1846

The first Christmas card, properly so-called, was produced in England in 1846 as the result of a nobleman's suggestion.

Sir Henry Cole conceived the idea when overwhelmed by the thought of having to pen personal greetings of the season to his many friends and acquaintances. This first card, of which about 1,000 copies were sold, was produced in black and white; the drawing thereupon was by J. C. Horsley and was hand colored. The idea did not really "catch on" until about 1864 and several more years passed before the custom of sending Christmas cards was taken up by British royalty.

Monopoly of the American Christmas card market was enjoyed by Marcus Ward and Company of London for a few years following their introduction into the United States during the 1870's. In 1880 Louis L. Prang and Company of Boston entered into competition with the English firm. Prang and Company offered \$2,000 in prizes for the best designs submitted and nearly 600 entries were received; thus launching the modern industry which offers Christmas cards of almost endless varieties to fit every pocketbook.

Send that Christmas card today! to bind up the wounds of bitterness, make fast the moorings of friendship, and echo the glorious promise of peace.

Ancient Druids First to Hang Evergreens, Mistletoe

The Druids of ancient Britain started the hanging of evergreens, holly and mistletoe at Christmas. They are the oldest existing Christmas rites. December 25 was a holy night in pre-Roman Britain. They called it the Mothers' Night, and it was part of their ceremonies of Iol, or Yule, meaning a wheel, which suggests the revolution of the seasons.



Explaining the 7 1/2 Cent 5 Cent Cigar

"Under an OPA order, the cigar industry is permitted to charge 7 1/2 cents for the old-time 5-cent cigar that has been selling for 6. This will mean a saving of 50 million a year to cigar smokers who have been forced to pay 10, 15 and 20 cents for a cigar about the quality of the former 5-cent smoke."—News item.

"I don't quite get it." "It's simple, if you stand still and don't twitch."

"Look, how will it save smokers 50 million if they pay 7 1/2 cents for the new cigar?"

"The seven-and-a-half-cent will be the same as the old nickel cigar."

"But there ain't been a nickel cigar in years."

"Yes there has, but it has cost six cents."

"Okay, I just took another aspirin. Go ahead."

"So OPA authorizes you to pay seven and a half cents for the five-cent cigar for which you have been paying six cents."

"How does that save me 50 million smokers?"

"Because for a cigar as good as the old-time nickel cigar you have had to pay 10 cents."

"Go on, I'm still on my feet." "From now on you only pay 7 1/2 cents for what you would have to pay 10 cents."

"But I never bought 10-cent cigars."

"Okay, You'll be saving lots of money."

"How?"

"It's easy. By smoking the cigar you may soon get through OPA for 7 1/2 cents you will be saving money on the cigar you never buy for 10 cents."

"But I asked for a seven and a half cent nickel cigar today and they ain't out yet."

"Did you ask for the 7 1/2 cent nickel cigar that cost 6 cents up to the time they thought up the 7 1/2 cent cigar that will cost 10 cents?"

"Yeah."

"That leaves you even."

"How?"

"If you can't get the seven and a half cent cigar you ain't out anything, provided you don't buy something else that costs more."

"Is that ad valorem or no plus ultra?"

"It's without matches, due to the fact OPA has not acted on the free matches now selling for one cent that may be raised to three cents to keep you from burning your fingers at the pre-war level."

"Where are we now?"

"Fourth down, in the shadow of the cigar store Indian, 20 yards to go."

"Got a cigarette?"

"A saboteur, eh!"

Hitler Explains His Silence

I cannot talk about the war—There's nothing I can say; I have so many things to do I cannot get away;

To speak is quite impossible—No message can I bring, For I've discovered suddenly The war's a pressing thing.

The mike and I were lovers once But we are parted now; Affairs that keep me silent, ach! Are pressing on my brow;

My viewpoint's undergone a change And now at words I balk; At last I think it nice to let The other fellow talk.

I never thought the day would come When far off I would stew And let another make my speech. . . (And neither, friends, did you!) I never dreamed there'd come a time—

(So mark this day with chalk!)— When Germany would hear these words:

"Der Fuehrer cannot talk!"

I realize you're mystified When Himmler reads my staff; It must seem strange to hear my speech

Read from another's cuff; But still I greet you from afar Where I must work and sweat Too busy to leap to the mike In wartime . . . WANNA BET?

"As long as only I myself was the object of some persecutions among certain Germans I could be magnanimous and overlook their actions. But whoever use a dagger or bomb today against the State will be destroyed without mercy."—Hitler.

You remember, of course, how magnanimous Adolf used to hand things over to Himmler in the interest of magnanimity, and they were popularly called the "Magnanimity Boys."

"The OPA announced that on Christmas restaurants would not be allowed to charge more than 15 cents extra over what they charged for turkey dinners a year ago."—News item.

Wanna bet?

The Lotus Club of New York which has been for men only for 74 years has capitulated and gone over to the ladies. It was about the last place in New York where a man could hide from his wife.