

# Maj. Max Jensen Doesn't See How Berlin Can be Rebuilt

## Union Man Writes Of Devastation In Reich Capital

UNION, Aug. 9 (Special)—Maj. Max R. Jensen, now in Berlin as a member of the U. S. group C. C. road transport division, writes his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orvel Jensen a description of the ruins of Berlin. Major Jensen arrived with his division in Berlin July 25.

He writes, "We are living in the best part of Berlin, but there is not a single house in the entire city that has not been touched in some manner. It is difficult to conceive that a city larger than Chicago could practically be destroyed, but if any one tells you the damage is exaggerated, he has never been here. The destruction here is placed at over 85 percent as compared with 70 percent at Munich, 65 percent at Frankfurt and over 85 percent in Cologne.

"We landed at Tempelhof air-drome. The concrete runway is tremendous, covering acres, and though the modernistic encircling buildings may have been imposing once, they are now merely a symbol, and a mighty tottering one at that, of one of the world's once greatest airports. We encircled Berlin several times before landing and we were amazed at the lack of life, no vehicles on the streets, which were once so wide and spacious. Now they are merely paths winding through the ruins. No smoke of industry—no drone of activity, a very few pedestrians.

**Few Walls**  
The few walls that still stand seem to do so merely in an attempt to hide the dust, the twisted iron and the crumbled concrete within. It is more like looking down on the bleached bones of a camel caravan, one so often seen in the spring in Asia. Thursday I rode through the U-bahn (subway) as far into the heart of Berlin as I could, which was about a mile and a half from the center of the city.

I then started walking and covered at least 12 miles. From Hohenzollerer platz to Nurnburger platz then, about another half mile of U-bahn and on foot up to Potsdamer Platz, Wilhelmstrasse, Herman Goeringstrasse to the Tier garden, now only twisted stumps, the greenery of the trees burned off by gun fire and what used to be grass now silt and dust from the tanks, the artillery, the foot soldiers and the exploding shells. To the right, and now anything but majestic, stand the reichstag, farther on the chancellery and atop that once mighty building now tottering on the verge and hanging from nothing, the once brilliant green coach and team. All these monuments to Hitler, now look like a wet rotten gunny sack, hung out to dry.

**Gruesome**  
Continuing on up Unter Den Linden and the Wilhelmstrasse, the feeling of looking at something awful, gruesome and dead grips one and it can not be shaken off. One feels the urge to walk on tip toe, to speak in a whisper for fear of waking the monster that caused such indescribable destruction. Then occasionally one smells the odor of the dead, thousands of them still buried beneath the shambles and as I crossed near a subway platz, I could see the water, stagnant and green, almost overflowing into the street. The fetid stench here is nauseating. Thousands of German civilians, who had taken refuge in the subway tubes down town, were drowned when the SS flooded the system. There were in all some 750,000 civilians destroyed during the siege of Berlin.

I do not see how this place and many others in Germany can ever be re-built. Berlin should always be, and in all probability will be, the heritage of Hitler and nazism, bequeathed to the world for all to see and smell, and always remembered as the wages of such creeds. I know whenever I think of Berlin, no matter how long from now, with my thoughts

# Yanks and Chinese Made Chihchiang Air Base Too Hot for Japs to Hold

By HARRY GRAYSON  
CHIHCHIANG, SOUTHWEST HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA (NSA)—Places like Chihchiang forcefully remind you that the war is not won, that young men are still risking their lives in kicking hell out of Japan.

Out-of-the-way Chihchiang and brave men who have been—and are—based here deserves vastly more attention than they have been given. At Chihchiang, only a few weeks ago, the Japs for the first time failed to take an airfield which they seriously tried to get in China. In the defense of this airfield the Chinese won their only major battle on their home grounds.

At Chihchiang, in the only battle of its kind in any war, young men of two nations, customs and cultures fight side by side. This is the base of the Chinese-American Composite Wing of the famous 14th Air Force, the one that has done mostest with the least.

**Japs Launch Drive**  
When many air bases on Japan's "Greater East Asia Land Line" had fallen, Chihchiang remained a pain in the neck to the Nips. So in April of this year they decided to take it and consolidate their life-line. They launched a formidable offensive from the area of their base at Paoching, in western Hunan.

In addition to being a practical base for the bombing and strafing of the Hengyang-Changsha corridor, Chihchiang was a supply point for Chinese armies in the area.

Allied ability to fly supplies to Chihchiang cut off many miles of road travel in a country where roads are few and difficult and transportation facilities extremely limited. The loss of Chihchiang would have been another sickening blow to Chinese morale and, correspondingly, would have given Jap propagandist at least a modicum of good news for home-front consumption to balance in part the very bad news being received at that time from other areas, particularly Burma, the Philippines and Okinawa.

The Japs meant it, for they launched a four-pronged offensive from Paoching, headed generally west toward Chihchiang, 120 air miles distant. Pessimists on the Chinese-American side at one time seemed prepared to

will come the odor and thoughts of death and of the vicious thing that caused it—the doctrine of national socialism. The waste, the destruction and the terrific loss weigh heavily on my heart, and I want to go home, to be with people, who speak English. I want to go where things are on an even keel. For two and one-half years, I have seen nothing but extreme, and now I want to go home—maybe I can do that in the spring."

Major Jensen was born at Rexburg, Ida., and moved with his parents to Union at the age of three. His early boyhood years were spent here, he was graduated from the Union High school and later attended OAC at Corvallis. For 13 years he was employed by Consolidated Freightways. He entered the service as a captain about three years ago. He was promoted to major after six months service in Iran. Major Jensen's duties in the army have sent him into many lands. His many relics have been sent home from the Holy land and other places he has visited.

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Chinese infantrymen were flown to Chihchiang to aid in battle against Japs. So stubbornly did defenders fight, however, that airborne infantry, like these men enjoying last meal before going aboard transport, were held in reserve.

write Chihchiang off the books, expecting it to fall in the same manner as Nanning, Kweilin, Liuchow and other air bases along the life-line. Then pessimists had a surprise in store for them, however. Though they gave ground at first, the Chinese fought back with a stubbornness that made every li (roughly one-third of a mile, Chinese measure) expensive to the Japs.

Contributing magnificently to the ground defense were the activities of the 14th Air Force, which played a conspicuous part in the defense of its own base. Lacking air cover, the enemy had little defense against forays by the planes of the Chinese-American Composite Wing. Jap lines of supply were harassed, his personnel were struck with demolition and fire bombs and strafed. As Jap supply lines lengthened and striking power correspondingly diminished, it became increasingly obvious that the enemy effort was doomed to failure. For the first time in an operation of this kind in China since July 7, 1937—in almost eight years of warfare—the Japs lost. Gradually, and at high cost to the Chinese in men and material, each of the four prongs of the offensive was thrown back. Jap losses were heavy, not only because of the hard fighting but also because, as the effort lost momentum and direction, many Jap troops were cut off, surrounded and liquidated.

**Japs Routed**  
The Japs were soundly whipped in seven weeks. Thousands never got back to their starting point along what was then a completely Jap-held inland corridor from the Changsha Lake district south via Hengyang, Kweilin, Liuchow and Nanning to Hanoi

in French Indo-China. Units had to retreat in little groups of stragglers infiltrating back through encircling Chinese lines. All were given rough handling. The Japs are today the same distance from the air base as when they started.

**Bids For Repair 'Not Required'**  
SALEM, Aug. 9 (UP)—County courts are not required by law to call for competitive bids prior to contracting for minor alterations and repairs to established court houses, attorney general George Neuner today advised William S. Fort, district attorney for Lane county.

**Jap Synthetic Plant 'Destroyed and Sunk'**  
GUAM, Aug. 9 (UP)—You can cross off the Ube coal liquefaction company, one of Japan's prime manufacturers of synthetic fuels. It's been "destroyed and sunk." Twentieth AAF headquarters revealed today Brig. Gen. Frank A. Armstrong's 31st Air Wing had destroyed the plant.

Bombing the plant Sunday night with precision instruments, Armstrong's airmen pinpointed their targets to rip away barriers holding back the sea. The water rushed in to swamp the cracking plant, fuel tanks and other installations, leaving virtually ev-

**Two Under Sentence Of Death Appealing**  
SALEM, August 9 (UP)—Two men under sentence of death for murder have filed appeals with the state supreme court.

Kenneth Bailey, sentenced to die in the state prison gas chamber tomorrow for the slaying of T. R. Chambers, state police officer in a gun battle near Ontario April 29, completed his appeal to the high court on Wednesday and was granted a stay of execution.

Andrew W. Dennis, under sentence of death for the slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Annabelle McNallen in Portland in June, 1944, has filed a petition for a rehearing on his appeal to the supreme court. A previous opinion by the high court affirmed the death sentence.

Oaks are more likely to be struck by lightning than are other trees.

# Bomb Plant Men Still Can't Talk About Work There

## No Sign of Life In Plant Areas Except Guards

RICHLAND, Wash., Aug. 9 (UP)—Employees of the Hanford atomic bomb project still are forbidden to discuss their individual jobs even with each other, despite revelation of the destruction they have helped pour on Japan. Walter O. Simon, plant manager of the project for the Dupont company, said today the security lid still is on for the workers.

Meanwhile newsmen completed a carefully conducted tour of the ghost town of Hanford and saw from a respectable distance the seven principal plants in three production areas.

There was no sign of human life in the plant areas except for a few guards. Workers inside toiled by remote control on unseen materials.

Simon explained that each worker still is "supposed to know only his own job." They were told yesterday in a telegram from Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson that "the need for security and for continued effort is fully as great as it ever was." "The warlords of Japan now know its effects better even than we ourselves," Patterson said.

# Strike Vote Seen In Lumber Camps

## 10,000th Soldier Leaves Ft. Lewis

PORTLAND, Aug. 9 (UP)—Executive Secretary Kenneth Davis of the northwest council, AFL, today predicted petitions from more than 475 northwest lumbering logging operations will result in a strike vote being called by the national labor relations board Aug. 40.

Davis said the strike vote will be under provisions of the war labor disputes act (Smith-Connolly Act), which requires a 30-day lapse after filing of the petitions.

The 42-year-old Helena, Mont., man was awarded four decorations of valor along with his discharge papers a veteran of the "sight seen" sixth" division in the Pacific, Comers earned his first

silver star for rescuing a wounded captain who was pinned down under fire at Marakina, Luzon. He was wounded three times during overseas action.

PORTLAND, Aug. 9 (UP)—A trained elephant named Betty was the least excited of all.



Motorists blinked when they saw the elephant calmly ambling up a hill on southside highway out of Portland. They frantically summoned officers.

Meantime her trainer for the C. R. Montgomery circus had reached the crest of the grade and invited Betty back into her truck. He explained the pachyderm was too heavy to haul up the grade, so he had her get out and walk.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

**Herb's Got a Great Little Wife**

Everybody's talking about what a grand job Herb Helm is doing at the war plant. Not just one shift, but two a day—to help build the war materials our men need.

Good for Herb! But I'd like to say a word for Mary, Herb's wife. She runs the house, cooks the meals, takes care of the children, and works on salvage drives and bundles for the Red Cross. Believe me, that's tiring work for any woman!

Yet when Herb comes home—too tired to talk or watch where he drops his ashes, maybe—she makes allowances, keeps smiling, brings him a restful glass of beer, and makes enough conversation for them both. Next morning, Herb goes to work refreshed and cheerful.

From where I sit, women like Mary Helm are doing a great war job themselves... being tolerant and kind to husbands who are working under a heavy war-time strain. Bully for them!

Joe Marsh